
Status of

WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

2009





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At the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona, we know that when women thrive, the whole community benefits. Our mission is to foster equity and opportunity for women and girls, and since our founding in 1992, we have invested more than \$1.2 million in organizations that help women overcome social, political and economic inequities.

In 2000 the Foundation produced its first Status of Women report, comparing Arizona women to those in other states. With this update we chose to take a closer look at the three counties we serve — Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz — to inform our work, the work of the non-profit community, and regional policymakers. Our goal is to use this report as a benchmark, updating it annually where data are available, to chart women's progress in five areas: education, employment/economics, health, crime and civic participation.

This report, and the underlying data, are available on our website, www.womengiving.org. We invite your comments and questions at www.womengiving.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Executive Summary

In Southern Arizona women constitute a majority of our population. Their ability to thrive directly affects the region's ability to thrive. If the population of women and girls grows, the population of the region grows; if women and girls face economic hardship, the region faces economic hardship; if women and girls experience disease and disability, the region experiences disease and disability.

We cannot act as a community to improve the status of women and girls unless we are armed with the facts about the issues they face, the strengths in the systems that support them, and the aspects of their lives where gains have been made and challenges remain.

This report, *Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona*, brings together a sampling of basic information on the status of economics, education, health and safety for women and girls in the three counties—Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz—where Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona grants funds. While this report cannot display all the public or private information that is available, it does provide a snapshot of the status of women and girls in our community and provides a baseline by which to measure progress.

Government and non-profit entities are already addressing some of the issues

raised in this report. We encourage you to visit our website—www.womengiving.org—to learn what our grantees and partners are doing to help more Southern Arizona women and girls succeed.

Key Definitions Used in this Report

Race and Ethnicity—each data source uses its own definition of race and ethnicity. Some sources leave these separate—White, African American, Asian, etc. regardless of ethnicity—while others combine them—White, not including Hispanic, African Americans, not including Hispanic, etc. This report has treated race and ethnicity separately when using Census figures and combined them when the source of data uses that definition.

Age—women, girls, adolescents, children. What we mean by age can be confusing. When referring to all females regardless of age, we use the term "female." When referring to adult females we use the term "women" and specify the age of women we are describing.

Southern Arizona—for the purposes of this report Southern Arizona comprises Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona—Report Overview

The full report *Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona* provides information based on publically available data for women and girls in Southern Arizona in the areas of:

- Demographics
- Education
- Work and Earnings
- Health and Well-Being
- Violence
- Political Participation

While this report provides a wealth of information on women and girls, it also notes important gaps in our knowledge. It is our hope that by publishing this information, we will move our region closer toward collecting and assembling useful and timely data, and that these in turn will guide efforts aimed at helping the region's girls and women succeed.

Demographics

Our numbers are large and growing. Women and girls account for slightly more than half the population of

the region. Understanding the basic numbers and characteristics of girls and women in Southern Arizona provides an important grounding and context for our work. It also helps us examine trends. For example, if the population of women is aging, we must look more closely at programs and supports for older women; if our population is increasingly diverse, we must address issues of cultural and linguistic relevance.



Key Findings

In 2000:

- There were 509,000 females in Southern Arizona—accounting for 51 percent of the total population.
- The number of Southern Arizona females increased 26 percent since 1990. This rate of growth is 12 percentage points higher than the growth in the number of females nationwide.
- Of all Southern Arizona females, 75 percent were white (all ethnicities), 17 percent were “other” race, three percent were Black, three percent were American Indian, and two percent were Asian.
- 32 percent of females in Southern Arizona were Hispanic.
- 55 percent of Southern Arizona girls under age five are Hispanic, versus just 18 percent of women ages 65 to 69.
- 30 percent of households were headed by a single or lone female (single, no-husband, living alone).

Education

Education matters. Educational success is a predictor of many things: the kind of job you can get, how much

you can earn, where you live, your marital stability, and your health outcomes. The impacts of education are far-reaching; we now know that a mother’s education level has a significant impact on the educational outcomes of her children, and that increasing education positively affects our region’s economy.

Key Findings

- 43 percent of women ages 25 and older in Southern Arizona in 2000 had a high school diploma/GED or less education.
- In 2006 only 46 percent of Native American girls graduated high school in four years as compared to 81 percent of white (non-Hispanic) girls.
- In 2007 five percent of female high school students in Southern Arizona (1,482 students) dropped out of school.
- 23 percent of women ages 25 and older in Southern Arizona had a BA degree or higher in 2000 compared to 28 percent of men.
- 55 percent of Bachelor’s degrees awarded by the University of Arizona in the 2006-2007 school year were to women. This is up from 45 percent of BA degrees in 2000-2001.

Employment and Earnings

A woman’s job and her ability to earn a living affect nearly all aspects of her life. Historically,



women have been in more vulnerable work and economic positions than men—they are more likely to work part-time and in low-pay, service sector jobs; they are more likely to have hours cut back in an economic downturn; and, they are less likely to receive unemployment insurance. In today's economy and society, women need to secure the kinds of jobs that enable them to care for themselves and their families—regardless of the ability of a spouse or partner to economically support the family. And, there is evidence that sexism still exists—women are paid less for doing the same work. Furthermore, having a good job is not only about today's financial security. Issues related to financial stability last throughout a woman's life.

Key Findings

In 2000:

- 212,692 women over age 16 were in the labor force—accounting for 46 percent of all employed people.
- More than 50 percent of people in office and service sector jobs were women.
- While nearly one-third of business owners are women, women-owned businesses only account for six percent of business receipts in Southern Arizona.
- In Southern Arizona women still earn less than men. A woman's median earnings for full-time, year-round work is still between 73 and 78 percent of a man's salary, depending on her county of residence.
- Nearly one in every six females (82,604 females) in Southern Arizona lived in poverty.

- More than one in four Hispanic females lived in poverty and more than one in three Native American females lived in poverty.



Health and Well-Being

Good health is critical for women and girls in our community—from before a girl is born until the day she dies. The effects of poor health are significant—poor health can affect educational and employment opportunities, as well as financial stability. Although much is known about getting and keeping healthy, access to good health care remains a significant barrier to improving health outcomes.

Key Findings

- In 2006 one in seven births in Southern Arizona were to a female under age 20.
- In 2006 the leading cause of death of girls ages 15 to 19 years old was motor vehicle accidents.
- Of all births in Southern Arizona in 2006, one-fourth did not receive any prenatal care in the first trimester.
- Cardiovascular disease—also known as heart disease—continues to be the leading cause of death of women in Southern Arizona.
- Among women ages 45 to 64, cancer was the leading cause of death in 2006.
- Southern Arizona women live, on average, seven years longer than men.
- In Southern Arizona, uninsured rates for the total population ranged from 18 percent in Pima County to 30 percent in Santa Cruz County in 2000.

Violence and Crime

Violence and crime touch the lives of all kinds of women—young and old, rich and poor. And research indicates this violence can have short- and long-term negative consequences for women and girls. Young women who are victims of abuse and neglect often bear physical and emotional scars throughout their lives, and adult women who are victims of violence, both domestic and otherwise, can also experience immediate and long-term consequences.

Women and girls are not only victims of crime; they are also increasingly committing crimes. As violence in communities escalates, women and girls all too often get caught up in crime and violence.

Key Findings

- In 2007 466 girls were found to be victims of abuse or neglect.
- In 2008 there were 1,282 girls in foster care in Southern Arizona.
- In 2004 there were 6,382 domestic violence arrests (nearly 18 per day) and 1,283 domestic violence convictions in Southern Arizona.
- In 2007 27 percent of crimes in Southern Arizona were committed by a female. One-quarter of the crimes committed by females were committed by juvenile girls.

Political Participation

While nationally women came to political participation later than men—only earning the right to vote in 1920—Arizona granted women the right to vote in 1912. And, historically, Arizona has had a long history of women holding public office. Arizona has had the most female governors of any state (four) and is one of only two states where female governors have come from both major political parties.

In 2000 54 percent of Arizona women were registered to vote and only 41 percent of women voted, giving Arizona the dubious distinction of having the second

lowest voter participation rate among women of any state in the nation.

What's Missing?

While we have much to learn by analyzing publically available data on women and girls in Southern Arizona, some critical information is missing. These data omissions mean that we cannot provide a full picture of the status of women and girls in the region, nor can we track trends and emerging patterns that might allow us to support them more strategically. Key areas in which the data are missing include:

- **Early Childhood Data**—A good education starts early. To better understand the educational trajectory for girls, data regarding early childhood experiences of young girls should be collected. While some data do exist, they are fragmented by the myriad of different programs that serve young children and not readily available.
- **Measures of Quality of Educational Experience**—An education is not enough. To understand educational outcomes more information is needed on the quality of educational experiences at all levels. However, little agreement exists on what a “quality” education entails and thus few data are available.
- **Drop-outs**—While some drop-out data are collected by the Arizona Department of Education,





information is not reported by ethnicity and gender for Southern Arizona counties. As there are significantly different drop-out rates across racial and ethnic groups, having detailed data on girls in Southern Arizona is critical to understanding the depth and dimension of the drop-out problem.

- **Timely Economic Status and Job Status**

Information— Much information on the economic and job status of women in Southern Arizona is available from the U.S. Census collected once every 10 years. Efforts by the American Community Survey (ACS) to provide data more frequently are limited to covering more populous places; hence, coverage is uneven. Additionally, because economic trends change more quickly than can be picked up by the decennial Census, we are missing out on important developments—both positive and negative—on the economic status of girls and women.

- **The Measurement of Poverty**—Because the poverty measure underestimates the number of people struggling to make ends meet, it is time—as a community and as a nation—to develop a new poverty measure.

- **Lack of Health Insurance**—Lack of health insurance is a crisis facing our nation. Unfortunately, there is no source of data on women who lack health insurance in Southern Arizona.

- **Medical Care**—Access to health services is critical to getting and remaining healthy. However, we do not have good information on the ability of women and girls in Southern Arizona to secure appropriate medical care.

- **Mental Health**—National data indicate that many women suffer from mental health problems. However, we were not able to find information on the mental health status of women in Southern Arizona.

- **HIV/AIDS**—There is evidence that women may be more likely than men to be newly impacted by HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, there is no accessible source of data on the number of HIV/AIDS cases in Southern Arizona by gender.

- **Domestic Violence**—There is a dearth of regular, reliable data on the extent of domestic violence in our community. Without this information efforts to prevent and treat domestic violence are hamstrung.

- **Victims of Crimes**—Very little information exists on girls and women as victims of crimes in Southern Arizona. Because of the long-term impact of being a victim of crime, it is important to track this information.

- **Incarceration**—There are a lack of data about women in prisons in Southern Arizona counties. In order to understand the impact of incarceration, data including gender, length of stay, and presence of children are critical.

- **Political Participation**—Unfortunately, little is known about voter registration and voting patterns among women in Southern Arizona. Because gender is not noted during voter registration, there is no uniform, credible source of data on voter registration and voting patterns among women.

Conclusion

While this report provides a wealth of information, it is only the beginning of our work—the next part of the process is when we, as a community, decide how to respond. With this information in hand we must determine how we can improve the lives of women and girls and the status of our region. We encourage you to use the information provided in this report and combine it with other sources as you build new programs, target charitable giving, advocate on behalf of women and girls, and adjust policies at the city, county and state levels.

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Introduction

For the future of the region . . .

The mission of the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona is to foster equity and opportunity for women and girls. Our work focuses on ensuring that women and girls in Southern Arizona are healthy, well-educated, economically stable and free from violence.

While this is the purpose of the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona (WFSA), it is also central to the vitality of the region.

In Southern Arizona women constitute a majority of our population. Their ability to thrive directly affects the region's ability to thrive. If the population of women and girls grows, the population of the region grows; if women and girls face economic hardship, the region faces economic hardship; if women and girls experience disease and disability, the region experiences disease and disability.

Information is power . . .

We cannot act as a community to improve the status of women and girls unless we are armed with the facts about the issues they face, the strengths in the systems that support them, and the areas where gains have been made and challenges remain.

This report, *Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona*, brings together a sampling of basic information on the economic, educational, health and safety status of women and girls in the three counties—Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz—where WFSA grants funds. While the report cannot display all the public or private information that is available, it does provide a snapshot of the status of women and girls in our community and provides a baseline by which to measure progress.

Let your voice be heard . . .

The report provides a wealth of information, but it is only the beginning of our work—the next part of the process is when we, as a community, decide how to respond. With this information in hand we must determine how we can improve the lives of women and girls and their status in our region. We encourage you to use the report's information and combine it with other sources as you build new programs, target charitable giving, advocate on behalf of women and girls, and adjust policies at the city, county and state levels.

Some of the issues raised are already being addressed by government and non-profit entities across the region. We encourage you to visit our website—www.womengiving.org—to learn what our grantees and

partners are doing to help more Southern Arizona women and girls succeed.

While women and girls in our community still face many challenges, their lives are improving in some ways. We hope this report will help raise awareness not only of the challenges,



but also highlight the opportunities we have as a community to build on our strengths and continue to make progress.

Report Overview

Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona provides information based on publically available data on women and girls in Southern Arizona in the areas of:

- Demographics
- Education
- Work and Earnings
- Health and Well-Being
- Violence
- Political Participation

For comparison purposes, where possible, we provide multiple years of data as well as specific information on each county. Because much of the data are drawn from the U.S. Census, we primarily show information for 1990 and 2000. However, the American Community Survey (ACS) provides information for 2006 for Cochise and Pima Counties. ACS does not have reliable data for Santa Cruz County. Additional data can be found in the Appendix.

We provide information on the region of Southern Arizona addressed by the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona. When the report references "Southern Arizona" it refers to Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz counties. As this report focuses on women and girls across Southern Arizona, data for

the counties are only displayed if there is substantial variation.

"Sixty years have passed since the founders of the United Nations inscribed, on the first page of our Charter, the equal rights of men and women. Since then, study after study has taught us that there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. No other policy is as likely to raise economic productivity, or to reduce infant and maternal mortality. No other policy is as sure to improve nutrition and promote health—including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. No other policy is as powerful in increasing the chances of education for the next generation. And I would also venture that no policy is more important in preventing conflict, or in achieving reconciliation after a conflict has ended. But whatever the very real benefits of investing in women, the most important fact remains: Women themselves have the right to live in dignity, in freedom from want and from fear. "

—former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

In this report we provide data on females of all ages. When referring to all females, regardless of age, we use the word "female." When referring to adults (ages specified in text) we use the word "women." When referring to younger females (ages specific in text) we use the words "girls" or "juvenile girls."

A note about race and ethnicity.

In some sections of the report we provide information on the race and ethnicity of women and girls. Because we are using publically available data, we use those sources' definitions of race and ethnicity. For Census data, race categories—White, Black, Asian, etc.—are different from ethnicity categories—Hispanic, non-Hispanic, etc. However, for other data sources, race and ethnicity are combined. In this report, unless otherwise noted, "white" refers to white females regardless of ethnicity.

The Women's Foundation intends to publish information on the Status of Women annually, with larger reports coming out after each decade's census. We hope that in future years, the information we can share about women and girls in our region is even more robust than

it is today. If you have questions about this report, or suggestions for future issues, please contact the Women's Foundation at www.womengiving.org.



Demographics

Introduction

Our numbers are large and growing.

Women and girls account for slightly more than half the population of the region. Understanding the basic numbers and characteristics of girls and women in Southern Arizona provides an important grounding and context for our work. It also helps us examine trends. For example, if the population of women is aging, we must look more closely at programs and supports for older women; if our population is increasingly diverse, we must address issues of cultural and linguistic relevance.

Key Findings

In 2000:

- There were 509,000 females in Southern Arizona—accounting for 51 percent of the total population.
- The number of Southern Arizona females increased 26 percent since 1990. This rate of growth is 12 percentage points higher than the growth in the number of females nationwide.
- Of all Southern Arizona females, 75 percent were white (regardless of ethnicity), 17 percent were another race, three percent were Black, three percent were American Indian, and two percent were Asian.
- 32 percent of females in Southern Arizona were Hispanic.
- 55 percent of Southern Arizona girls under age five are Hispanic, versus just 18 percent of women ages 65 to 69.
- 30 percent of households were headed by a single or lone female.

In this section we provide information on the overall female population in Southern Arizona, including their ages, race, ethnicities and household composition.

Population

In 2000 the number of women and girls in Southern Arizona reached 509,000—accounting for 51 percent of the total population. The rate of growth in the number of females in Southern Arizona is lower than in the state as a whole but higher than in the nation. Between 1990 and 2000 the female population of the State of Arizona grew 30 percent, the female population of Southern Arizona grew 26 percent, and the U.S. female population grew 14 percent.

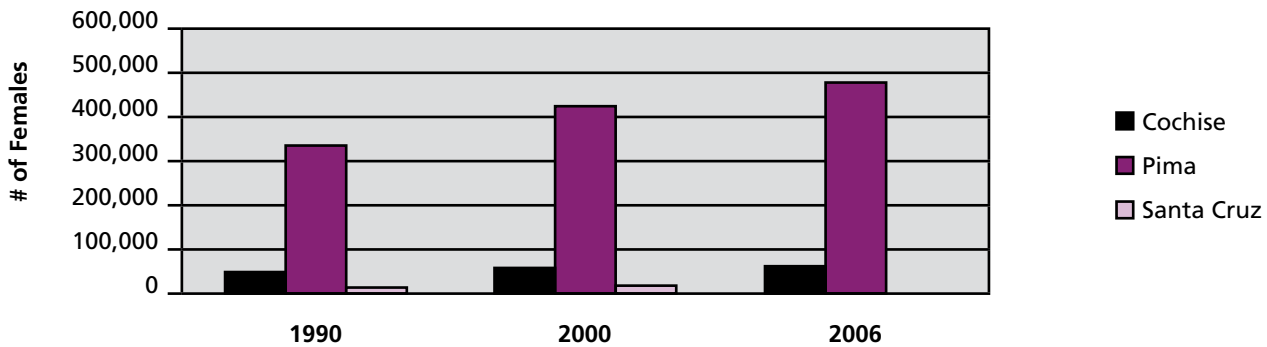
Slightly differing rates of growth in the female population are seen across the three Southern Arizona counties. Between 1990 and 2000 the number of females in Cochise County grew 21 percent, while Pima County grew 27 percent and Santa Cruz County 29 percent.

And the growth continues. Between 2000 and 2006 the female population in Cochise County increased by an additional 10 percent, and in Pima County by 12 percent. Between 2000 and 2006 the female



CHART 1

Growth in the Number of Females in Southern Arizona, 1990, 2000, and 2006



Source: U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000. American Community Survey 2006. No reliable 2006 data for Santa Cruz County are available.

population in Arizona increased by 20 percent and the U.S. female population by six percent.

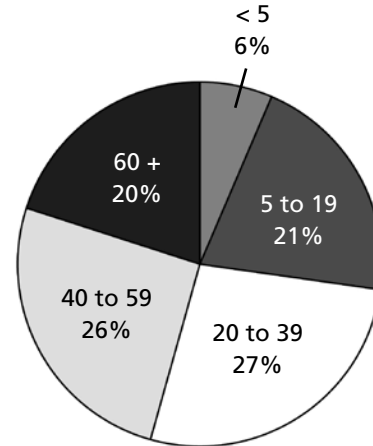
Age: Across the three counties the median age of females in 2000 ranged from 38 years of age in Cochise County, to 37 in Pima County, and 33 in Santa Cruz County. With the exception of Santa Cruz County, these are similar to the median ages of females across Arizona (36 years old) and across the U.S. (37 years old).

It is also interesting to note that the female population in Southern Arizona is getting older. By 2006 the median age had increased approximately two years to 40 in Cochise County and 39 in Pima County. Because women statistically live longer than men, their median age tends to be older. For example, in 2006 the median age of women in Pima County was 39, while for men it was 35.

In 2000 the distribution of the Southern Arizona female population across the generations was fairly even—with between 20 and 27 percent coming from each age cohort. This trend holds true across the counties.

CHART 2

Ages of Females in Southern Arizona, 2000



Source: U.S. Census, 2000.



Race and Ethnicity

In a diverse community like Southern Arizona, we have families of many racial and ethnic combinations. While some may think of racial and ethnic categories as combined, for the purpose of U.S. Census data they are separate. Thus, a black person could have many different ethnicities and a Hispanic person could be of any race. Indeed, in 2000 among Southern Arizonans who reported being Hispanic:

- 50 percent reported being white
- 42 percent reported being "other race"
- 6 percent reported being "two or more races"
- 2 percent reported being American Indian

Race: Southern Arizona is racially and ethnically diverse, a feature reflected in the diversity of women and girls.

Of all Southern Arizona females in 2000, 76 percent were white, 16 percent were "other" race or were "two or more" races, three percent were black, three percent American Indian, and two percent Asian. The racial composition of females across the three counties is somewhat similar except in Santa Cruz where more females (23 percent) listed their race as "other."

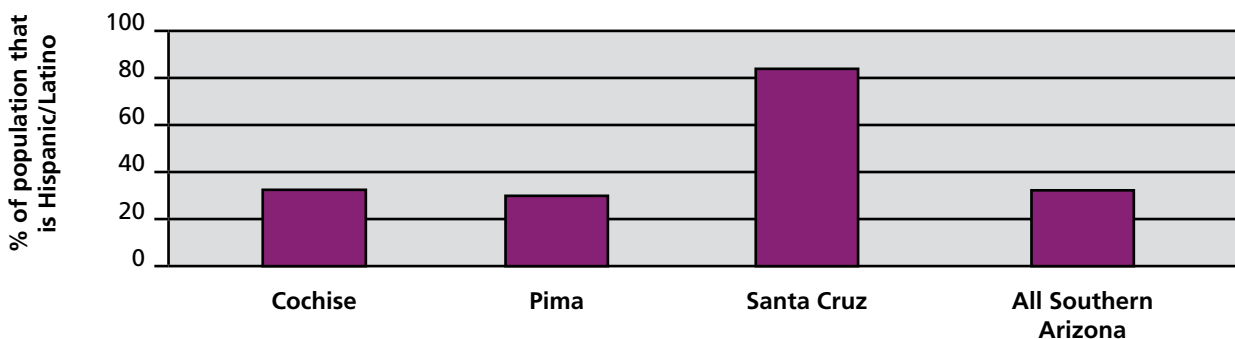
Two of Arizona's 21 federally recognized Indian Tribes are located in Southern Arizona.¹

- The Tohono O'odham Nation had a 2000 population of 10,787 (20,640 people recognized as tribal members). The reservation spans more than 4,440 square miles.
- The Pasqua Yaqui Tribe had a 2000 population of 3,315 (12,766 people recognized as tribal members). The reservation spans 1.4 square miles.

Ethnicity: Given our geographic location it is natural to assume that many females in Southern Arizona are Hispanic. In fact, in 2000 about 32 percent of females in Southern Arizona were Hispanic—rising

CHART 3

Hispanic Females in Southern Arizona, 2000



Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

four percentage points since 1990 (27 percent). These figures are likely to continue rising. The Pew Hispanic Center reports that by 2050 the nation will be a “majority minority” nation. As Arizona’s Hispanic population is growing faster than the nation, some speculate that Arizona will be a majority minority state sooner.ⁱⁱ And, as the data indicate, younger females are more likely to be Hispanic than older females. For example, 55 percent of Southern Arizona girls under age five are Hispanic versus just 18 percent of women ages 65 to 69.

There is considerable variation across the counties in the proportion of Hispanic women and girls. For example, in 2000 82 percent of the female population in Santa Cruz County was Hispanic versus 29 percent in Pima County.

Household Composition:

Information about household composition is important because it helps us to understand the size of families in which women are living, the other resources on which they may be able to draw, and dependents for whom they may need to care.

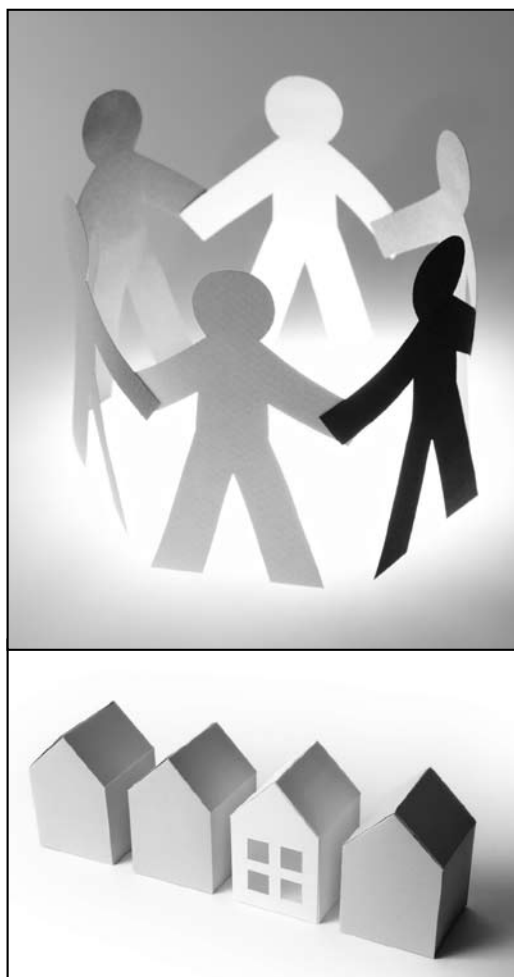
In 2000 there were 388,052 households in Southern Arizona. Of these, 104,395—or, 27 percent—were headed by a single female (including unmarried

and other women living alone). The rates of female-headed households were fairly constant across Southern Arizona. Among women over 65, 33 percent live alone, compared to only 16 percent of men. Of single female-headed family households, 26,693 – or 61 percent—have children under age 18.

In Pima County in 2006 there were over 9,700 families in which a grandparent was the primary caregiver and economic supporter for minor children. In two-thirds of those, the grandmother was the primary supporter of her grandchildren.

In examining household composition we also need to include same-sex households. In 2000 there were 1,371 Southern Arizona households

headed by females with a female partner.ⁱⁱⁱ Another 1,162 households were headed by a man with a male partner. These same-sex households account for less than one percent of all households in the region.



ⁱ University of Arizona, Economic Development Research Program. <http://erdp.arid.arizona.edu/tribes.html>

ⁱⁱ Fischer, H. “Anglos no longer majority by 2050”. Arizona Daily Star. Feb. 12, 2008.

ⁱⁱⁱ According to the American Community Survey, “partner” does not include housemate, roommate or boarder.



Education

Introduction

Education matters. Educational success is a predictor of many things: the kind of job you can get, how much you can earn, where you live, your marital stability, and your health outcomes.

For example:

- The annual average wage of a person who has completed college is more than twice as high as a person who has not completed high school.^{iv}
- People with a higher educational attainment level have fewer problems with chronic disease and a higher life expectancy.^v

A mother's education level has a significant impact on the educational outcomes for her children. When mothers have more education their children are more likely to do well on reading and math tests, have fewer behavioral problems, and are less likely to repeat a grade in school.^{vi}

Finally, increasing education affects our region's economy. As the education levels of a population increase, more businesses are created^{vii}, people are less likely to rely on government-funded welfare



Key Findings

- 43 percent of adult women (ages 25 and older) in Southern Arizona in 2000 had a high school diploma/ GED or less education.
- In 2007 one in every 20 female high school students dropped out of school.
- In 2006 only 46 percent of Native American girls graduated high school in four years as compared to 81 percent of white girls.
- 23 percent of adult women (ages 25 and older) in Southern Arizona had a BA degree or higher in 2000 compared to 28 percent of men.
- 55 percent of BA degrees awarded by the University of Arizona in the 2006-2007 school year were to women. This is up from 45 percent of BA degrees in 2000-2001.

benefits^{viii}, and community economic conditions improve.^{ix}

In this section we review data on high school completion and post-secondary education among women and girls.

Completing High School

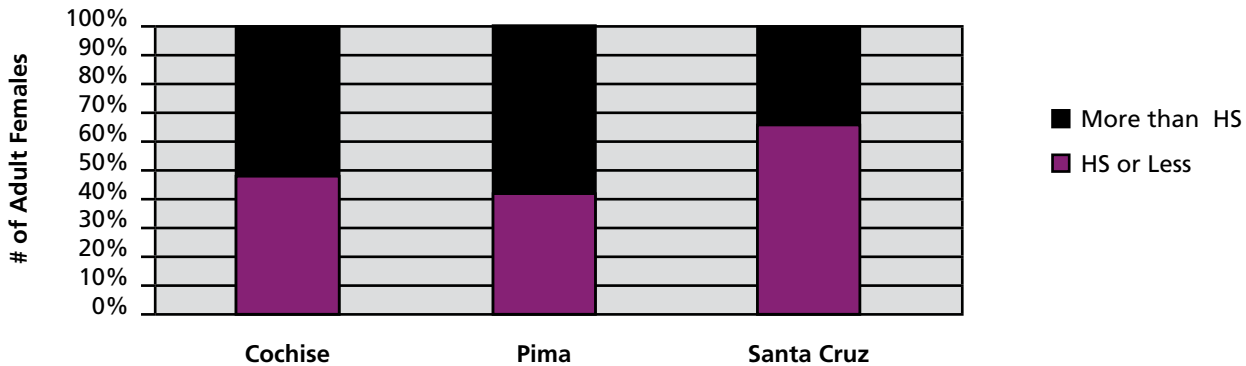
Completing high school is a basic marker of educational preparedness, enabling a person to pursue additional education or work.

In 2000 18 percent of women ages 25 and older in Southern Arizona had not completed high school and 25 percent had a high school diploma or GED. These rates of educational attainment are very similar to females in Arizona and across the U.S. The Southern Arizona rate for females is slightly higher than for men, of whom 17 percent had not completed high school and 22 percent have a high school diploma or GED.

The rate of educational attainment varies for women across the counties of Southern Arizona. In Santa Cruz County two-thirds of adult women had a high school education or less. In Cochise County nearly half had only a high school education or less and in Pima County the rate

CHART 4

Educational Attainment among Southern Arizona Females, 2000



Source: U.S. Census, 2000. Females ages 25 and older.

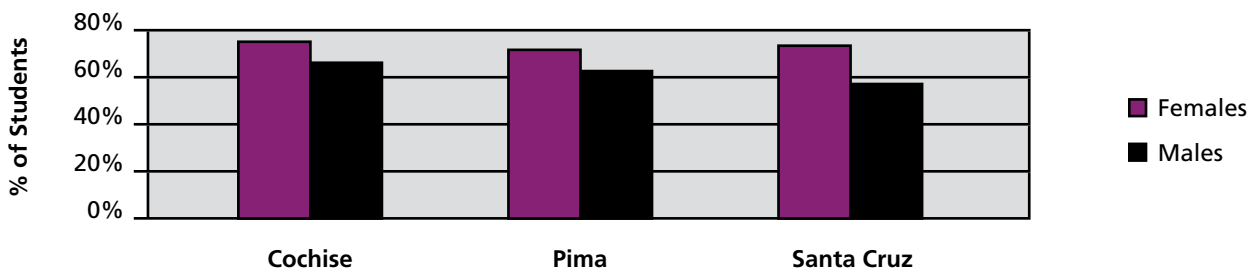


What is the difference between drop-out rates and graduation rates?

- Drop-out rates examine the number of students in any given year who leave school during the school year (not due to illness or transferring schools).
- Graduation rates start by identifying students who start 9th grade in a given year and examine if the student graduates from high school in four years.

CHART 5

Percent of Students Graduating High School in 4 Years, 2005-2006

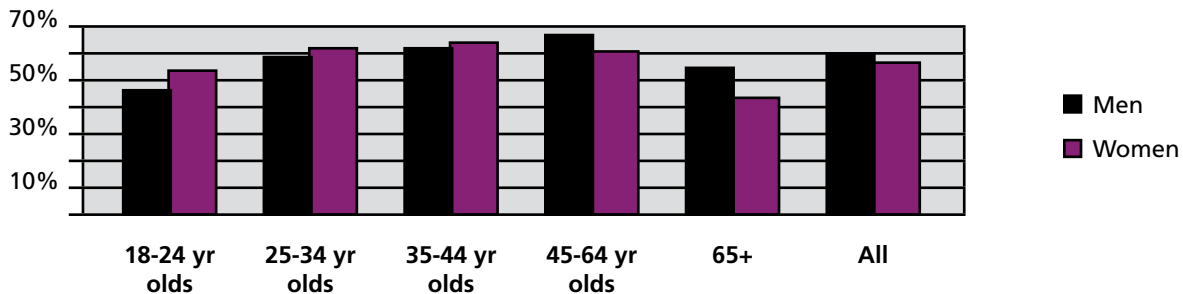


Source: Arizona Department of Education.



CHART 6

Post-secondary Education among Women and Men in Southern Arizona, 2000



Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

was 42 percent of adult women having a high school education or less.

High School Students: In order to better understand educational attainment, it is important to examine what is happening during the high school years. If young girls do not complete high school, it is very difficult to obtain higher education and secure the benefits that come with higher education.

In 2007 five percent of female high school students in Southern Arizona (1,482 students)—or, one in every 20 high school students—dropped out compared to seven percent of male high school students (1,990 students). The pattern was very similar across the three counties.^x

Although some young women are dropping out, the majority are staying in high school and graduating. In 2006 72 percent

of Southern Arizona female students entering high school in the 2001-02 academic year graduated in

four years as compared to 63 percent of male students. While this general pattern held true across the counties, the greatest gap between female and male students was in Santa Cruz County, as can be seen in Chart 5.



Post-secondary education can include taking college-level courses as well as securing a two-year college degree, a four-year college degree, or advanced degrees.

There is also variation across races and ethnicities. For example, in Southern Arizona only 46 percent of Native American high school girls graduated in four years, as compared to 66 percent of Hispanic girls, 73 percent of African American girls, 81 percent of white girls, and 89 percent of Asian girls. Across all racial and ethnic groups, Southern Arizona girls are graduating at higher rates than boys. The largest gap between boys and girls graduation rates can be found among African American and Hispanic youth.^{xi}

Post-secondary Education

In today's economy a high school diploma is not enough for women to compete successfully in the marketplace. Post-secondary education is increasingly critical to getting a job, working one's way up the occupational ladder and becoming economically self-sufficient.

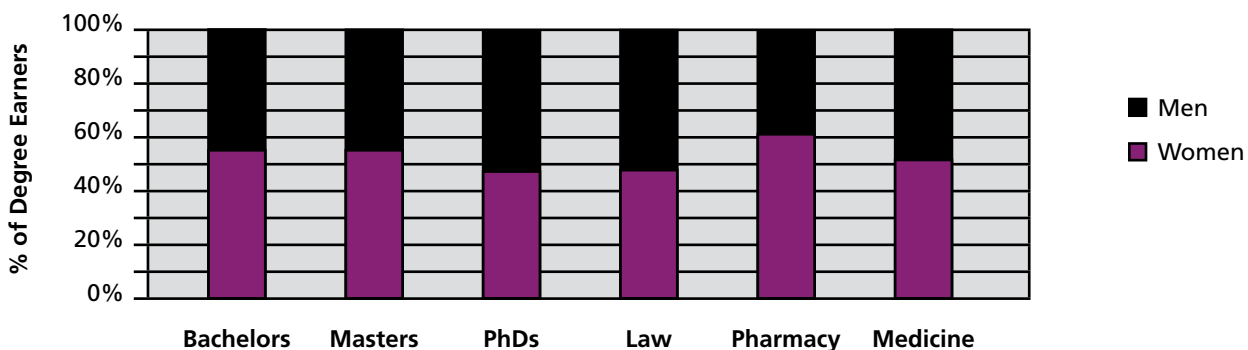
While recent yearly trends show women obtaining more post-secondary degrees than men, overall more men than women in Southern Arizona still hold a post-secondary degree because the population of older women has a fairly low level of post-secondary education. Indeed, only one-half of females over age 65 have any post-secondary education.

In 2000 34 percent of women (ages 25 and older) in Southern Arizona had some college education, another 14 percent had a Bachelor's degree, and nine percent had an advanced degree. This compares to 33 percent of men (age 25 and older) in Southern Arizona who had some college education, another 16 percent who had a Bachelor's degree, and 12 percent with an advanced degree. This trend holds true across the counties.



But, as can be seen in Chart 6, younger women are more likely than younger men to have obtained any post-secondary education (this educational experience may or may not have resulted in a degree). Post-secondary educational attainment decreases

CHART 7
University of Arizona Degree Earners, 2006–2007



Source: University of Arizona, [Factbook](#).



among older cohorts of women. Thus, women may catch up to men in educational attainment in the coming years.

Post-secondary Institutions in Southern Arizona: Securing post-secondary education is partly about opportunity—are there institutions to serve women interested in pursuing higher education? There are several public and private institutions of post-secondary education in Southern Arizona, most notably the three community colleges and the University of Arizona.

- **Community Colleges:** Southern Arizona's three community colleges—Cochise College, Pima Community College, Tohono O'odham College—serve an important function in the region. In 2006, of the 2,669 associate's degrees awarded, 52 percent were to females, a decrease from 57 percent in 2000 (although the total number of degrees to women increased between 2000 and 2006). In 2006, of the 4,252 certificates awarded at Cochise College and Pima Community College, 48 percent were to females, a substantial decrease from 67 percent in 2000.^{xiii} While the total number of women certificate earners increased, the proportion of certificate earners who are

women decreased both at Pima Community College and Cochise College. Further study is needed to understand this decline in the proportion of all certificate and degree earners who are female.

- **The University of Arizona:** The region's largest four-year institution, the University of Arizona (UA) offers Bachelor's and advanced degrees.^{xiii} In the 2006-07 academic year, UA awarded 5,568 Bachelor's degrees—55 percent of these were granted to females. Women constitute a majority of degree earners across all racial and ethnic groups. These figures include students at University of Arizona's Sierra Vista campus.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, women earned more UA Masters (55 percent), Pharmacy (61 percent) and Medicine (51 percent) degrees but fewer Doctoral (47 percent) and Law (48 percent) degrees than men.^{xiv}

Certainly over the past 30 years or so, women's participation in higher education has skyrocketed. In more recent years, we see slight changes in the proportion of degree earners who are females. In some areas, women are becoming a larger proportion of all degree earners, while in others the proportions are decreasing. In three categories—Bachelors, Masters, and Pharmacy degrees—

women became a larger proportion of degree earners



between 1999-2000 and 2006-2007. In all other categories—Doctoral degrees, Law degrees, and Medical degrees—the proportions remained the same or women became a smaller proportion of all degree earners in these same years.

What's Missing

While there are many data and much information on the education of girls and women in Southern Arizona, there are a few missing pieces of information that are critical to getting a full perspective, including:

- **Early Childhood:** A good education starts early. To better understand the educational trajectory for girls, data regarding early childhood experiences of young girls should be collected. While some data do exist, they are fragmented by the myriad of different programs that serve young children and not readily available.

- **Quality of Educational Experience:** To understand educational outcomes more information is needed on the quality of educational experiences at all levels. However, little agreement exists on what a “quality” education entails and thus few data are available.

- **Drop-outs:** While some drop-out data are collected by the Arizona Department of Education, information is not reported by ethnicity and gender for Southern Arizona counties. As drop-out rates differ significantly across racial and ethnic groups, having detailed data on girls in Southern Arizona is critical to understanding the depth and dimension of the drop-out problem.

^{iv} Cheeseman, J. and Newberger, E. “The Big Pay Off: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings.” U.S. Bureau of Census. July 2002.

^v Meara, E., Richards, S., and Culter, D. “The Gap Gets Bigger: Changes in Mortality and Life Expectancy, by Education 1981-2000.” Health Affairs. Vol. 27:2. 2008.

^{vi} Carnero, P., Meghir, C. and Parey, M. Maternal Education, Home Environments and the Development of Children and Adolescents. CEPR Discussion Paper. 2007.

^{vii} Jones, B.D. and Vedlitz, A. “Higher Education, Business Creation, and Economic Growth “ in Higher Education and Economic Growth. W.E. Becker and D.R. Lewis. Boston, Kluwer Academic Publishers: 1993.

^{viii} Vernez, G., Krop, R.A., et al. Closing the Education Gap: Benefits and Costs. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. 1992.

^{ix} Pencavel, J. “Higher Education, Economic Growth, and Earnings” in Higher Education and Economic Growth. W.E. Becker and D.R. Lewis. Boston, Kluwer Academic Publishers: 1993.

^x Arizona Department of Education.

^{xi} Arizona Department of Education. Special data analysis.

^{xii} Note 2000 data does not include Tohono O’odham as they were not yet open .

^{xiii} Data are drawn from University of Arizona Fact Book. This includes data on students at University of Arizona in Sierra Vista.

^{xiv} University of Arizona Fact Book 2007.



Employment and Earnings

A woman's job and her ability to earn a living affect nearly all aspects of her life. Historically, women have been in more vulnerable work and economic positions than men—they are more likely to work part-time and in low-pay, service sector jobs; they are more likely to have hours cut back in an economic downturn; and, they are less likely to receive unemployment insurance. In addition, women are more likely to lose their job in a recession.^{xv}

In today's economy and society, women need to secure the kinds of jobs that enable them to care for themselves and their families—regardless of the ability of a spouse or partner to economically support the family. Those with limited job skills

and limited economic mobility often get stuck in low-paying, dangerous, and potentially abusive work environments.^{xvi}

And, we know that women are still not earning the same rate of pay as men for equal jobs.

Having a stable, well paying job is not only about today's financial security. Issues around financial stability last throughout a woman's life. Because women tend to earn less than men and are more likely to quit a job to care for children or elderly parents, their retirement benefits are smaller.^{xvii}

In this section we review data on employment, occupations, earnings and poverty level of women and girls in Southern Arizona.

Key Facts

In 2000:

- 212,692 women over age 16 were in the labor force—accounting for 46 percent of all employed people.
- More than 50 percent of people in office, sales and service sector jobs were women.
- While nearly one-third of business owners are women, women-owned businesses only account for six percent of receipts in Southern Arizona.
- In Southern Arizona women still earn less than men. A woman's median earnings for full-time, year-round work is still between 73 and 78 percent of a man's salary, depending on her county of residence.
- Nearly one in every six females in Southern Arizona lived in poverty.
- More than one in four Hispanic females lived in poverty and more than one in three Native American females lived in poverty.

Employment

Women are working.

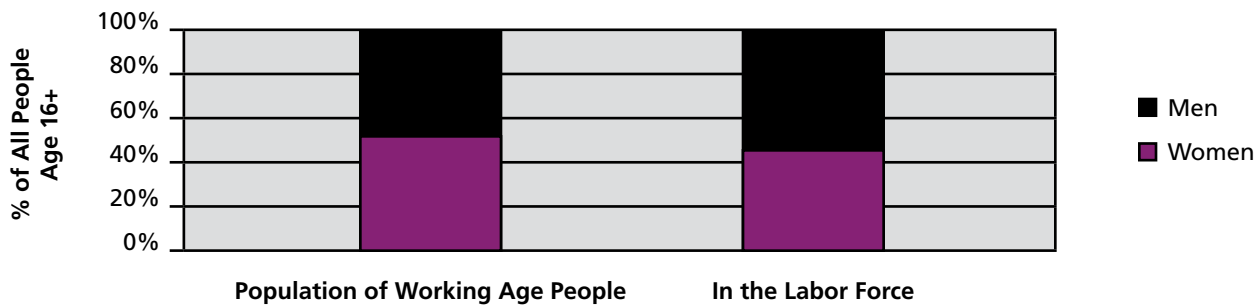
In Southern Arizona in 2000, 212,692 women over age 16 were in the labor force—accounting for 46 percent of all employed people. Although this percentage is slightly lower than the females' representation among the population ages 16 and older (52 percent), it shows that the majority of women work.

This pattern holds true for Cochise and Pima counties, where 45 percent and 46 percent of the workforce are women respectively. However, in 2000, for Santa Cruz County there was a larger difference between women's representation of the working population (ages 16 or older) (54 percent) and representation in the labor force (43 percent).

While there is no simple explanation for this, it appears to be due to the fact that older women are not working at quite as high rates as older men. In 2000 Southern Arizona women had fairly constant or

CHART 8

Employed Women and Men in Southern Arizona, 2000



Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

increasing labor force participation through their 50s (with a slight decline in their early 30s). Then at age 55, labor force participation falls rapidly and is quite small (less than 10 percent) by the time women reach age 70.

Unemployment: Women in Southern Arizona also face unemployment.^{xviii} In 2000, 11,771 women were unemployed (an unemployment rate of six percent). This compared to 13,288 men who were unemployed (a rate of five percent). Women's representation

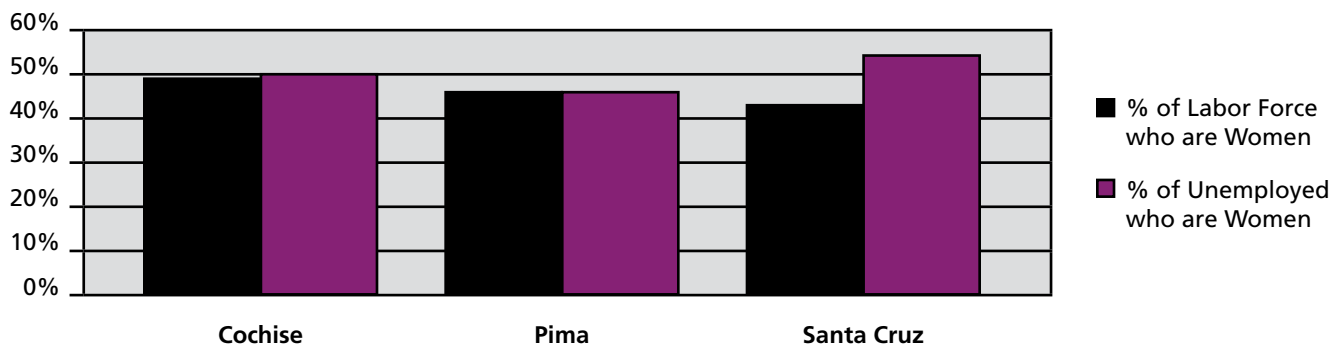
among the unemployed is fairly consistent with their participation in the labor force, except in Santa Cruz where women make up a larger proportion of the unemployed (where women account for 55% of the unemployed).

Occupations

In Southern Arizona women hold all kinds of jobs—from CEOs of large businesses to entry-level, service positions. A woman's occupation can be

CHART 9

Unemployed Women in Southern Arizona, 2000

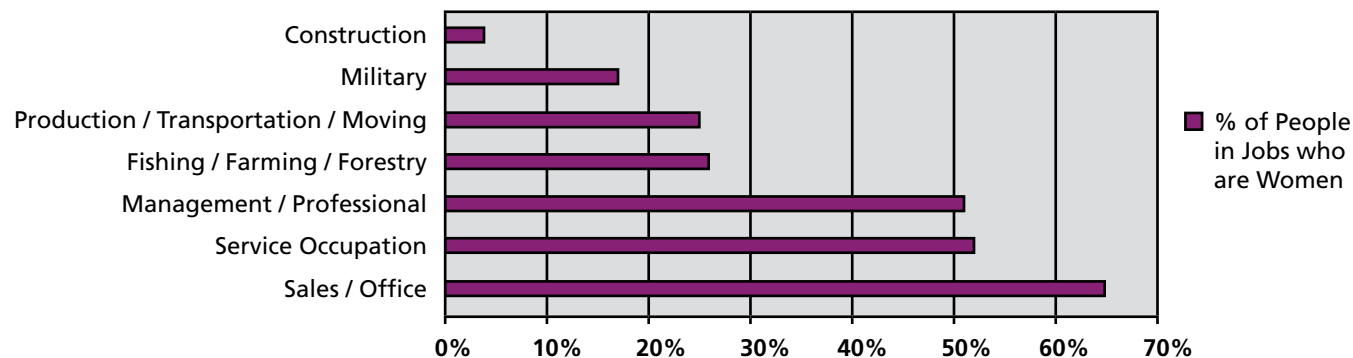


Source: U.S. Census, 2000. Civilian labor force. Ages 16 or older.



CHART 10

Women's Representation in Southern Arizona Occupations, 2000



Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

tightly linked to job stability and income. Lower-skill occupations tend to be less stable and offer lower wages. Historically, women who do work outside the home have been concentrated in lower-skill occupations.

This trend holds true for Southern Arizona. In terms of occupation, women in Southern Arizona tend to be concentrated in sales and office jobs (where, in 2000, more than 65 percent of job holders were women), service jobs (52 percent), and management/professional jobs (51 percent). Mirroring national trends, Southern Arizona women are not well represented in the military (17 percent) or construction (four percent).

While women may have similar representation to men in certain occupations, their salaries tend to differ. For example, in Pima County in 2000, 37 percent of men working full time in management/professional occupations earned \$50,000 or more compared to just 13 percent of women.



Women Business Owners

In Southern Arizona in 2002 (the most recent year for which we have reliable data), there were 22,300 women owned-business —accounting for 31 percent of all businesses. This is higher than the women-owned business rate in all of Arizona (29 percent) or nationally (28 percent).^{xix}

While nearly one-third of business owners are women, women-owned businesses account for just six percent of receipts in Southern Arizona. This may, in part, be due to the size of the businesses. Women-owned businesses tend to be small. For example, 85 percent of women-owned business had no employees other than the business owner herself.

When we compare the average receipts of women's businesses that have no employees with all non-employees businesses, the limitations become quite clear.

In Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties, receipts of the women-owned businesses (\$13,786 and \$19,686) were less than half of those of all non-employee businesses, though in Pima Country they did relatively

TABLE 1
**Women Owned Business Type,
Annual Receipts, 2002**

	Business with No Employees (Owner Only)	Ave. Receipts for No-Employee Business (Owner Only)
All AZ Business	75%	\$45,573
AZ Women Owned	86%	\$25,812
All Cochise Business	74%	\$28,199
Cochise Women Owned	87%	\$13,786
All Pima Business	75%	\$38,170
Pima Women Owned	85%	\$23,762
All Santa Cruz Business	70%	\$40,291
Santa Cruz Women Owned	85%	\$19,686

Source: AZ Department of Commerce, 2002.

better (\$23,762 or 62 percent). Unless these women business owners have some other source of financial support, their income level could well place them below the poverty line

Earnings

While women are employed, they are still earning less than men. For example, in examining 2000 median earnings, in Cochise County women earned 59 percent of men's earnings; in Pima County the

amount was higher at 67 percent, and for Santa Cruz County it was 59 percent.

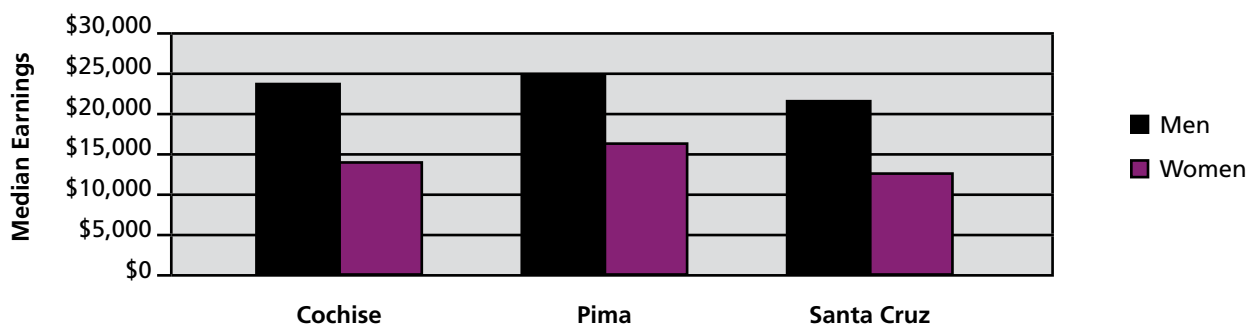
Because men and women tend to work different kinds of jobs—men are more likely to work full-time and women part-time—it is critical to also compare earnings of just full-time workers. If just the median annual earnings of people working full-time, year round are examined, female and male earnings fall slightly closer together. In 2000 the earnings of women employed full-time, year-round in Cochise County were 73 percent of men's earnings, in Pima County this rose to 78 percent, and in Santa Cruz County to 76 percent.

In addition to discrepancies in median earnings, there have been documented cases of pay discrimination based on gender; for example, Lilly Ledbetter's case against Goodyear Tire and the University of Arizona's pay equity studies. In these cases, there are documented instances of women doing comparable work for lower wages.

Poverty

For women and their families, living in poverty can be a major predictor of other negative outcomes, including poor health and nutrition, declining mental health, and unstable housing.^{xx, xxi}

CHART 11
Median Earnings in Southern Arizona, 2000

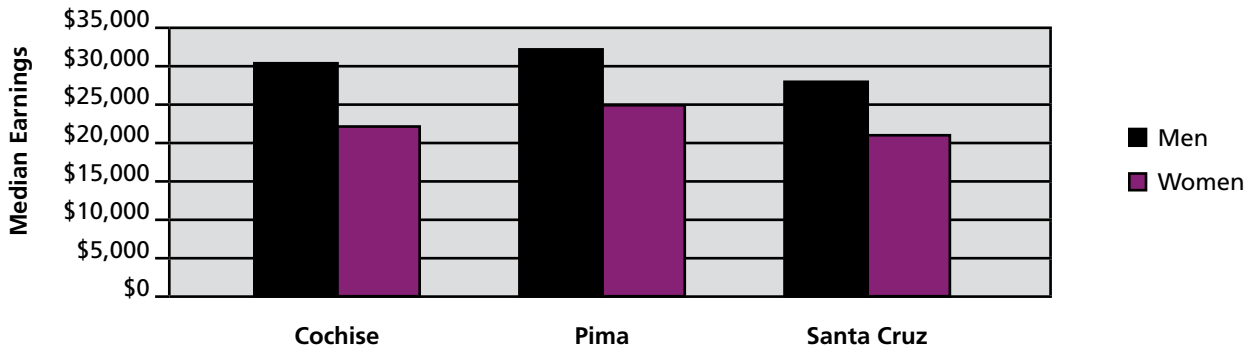


Source: U.S. Census, 2000. Persons over age 16 with earnings the previous year.



CHART 11a

Full-Time, Year-Round Median Earnings in Southern Arizona, 2000



Source: U.S. Census, 2000. Persons over age 16 with earnings the previous year.

Furthermore, children growing up in households with earnings below the Federal Poverty Limit—often headed by a single female—are at much greater risk of health and academic problems.^{xxii}

In 2000, 82,604 females in Southern Arizona were living below the poverty level. This means that 17 percent of Southern Arizona females live in poverty.

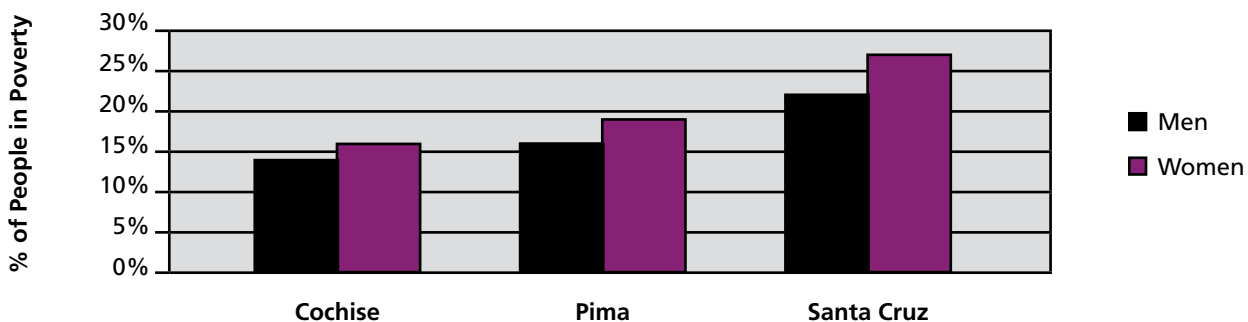
Females in Southern Arizona are somewhat more likely to be living in households with earnings

below the poverty line than males. For example, in 2000 in Cochise County 16 percent of females were poor versus 14 percent of males, in Pima County 19 percent of females were poor versus 16 percent of males, and in Santa Cruz County 27 percent of women were poor versus 22 percent of men.

Younger Southern Arizona females tend to be poorer than adult females. About 22 percent of girls under age 18 are poor as compared to 15 percent of women ages 18 and older.

CHART 12

Poverty in Southern Arizona



Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

TABLE 2
Families Living in Poverty in Southern Arizona, 2000

	Married Couple Families		Female-Headed Families		Male-Headed Families	
	% Living in Poverty	% with Children Living in Poverty	% Living in Poverty	% with Children Living in Poverty	% Living in Poverty	% with Children Living in Poverty
Cochise	8%	14%	39%	47%	19%	23%
Pima	6%	9%	28%	35%	17%	21%
Santa Cruz	17%	21%	41%	47%	26%	24%

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

Poverty among Families:

Poverty status varies considerably by household size and marital status. For example, in 2000 in Cochise County 8 percent of married couple families were living in poverty compared to 39 percent of female-headed households. And, single parent female-headed family households with children are more likely to be poor than those without children. For example, in Pima County 28 percent of all female-headed family households were in poverty compared to 35 percent of single female-headed households with children.

Poverty, Race and Ethnicity: As is true across the nation, the poverty rate varies considerably by race and ethnicity. In 2000:

- 36 percent of Southern Arizona American Indian females were poor.
- 20 percent of Southern Arizona black females were poor.
- 15 percent of Southern Arizona Asian females were poor.
- 14 percent of Southern Arizona white females were poor
- 26 percent of Southern Arizona Hispanic females were poor.



What's Missing

To really get a handle on work, earnings and economic stability among females in Southern Arizona, additional information is needed.

Of specific concern is the timeliness of the data for all the factors. Much information on the economic and job status of women in Southern Arizona is available from the U.S.

Census collected once every 10 years. Efforts by the American Community Survey to provide more up-to-date information has been helpful in more populous places, but is not reliable for less populous counties (like Santa Cruz County).

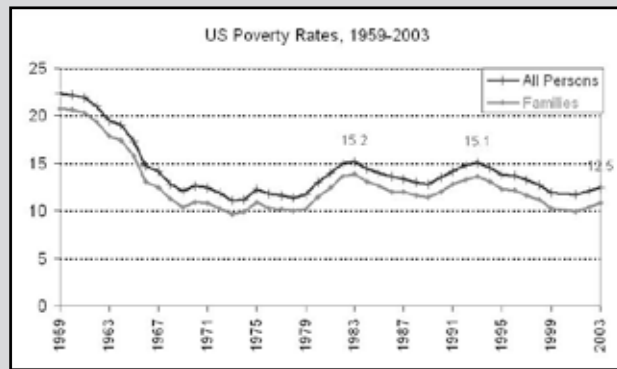
Because economic trends change more quickly than can be picked up by the decennial Census, we are missing out on important developments—both positive and negative—on the economic status of girls and women.

In addition, because the existing poverty measure underestimates the number of people struggling to make ends meet, it is time—as a community and as a nation—to develop a new poverty measure.



FPL- A Flawed Measure

What Is The Federal Poverty Limit?



Poverty rates over time.

"FPL" or the Federal Poverty Limit is the most common indicator of well-being for low income families in America. For over forty years it has been the primary measure of poverty in the United States and the most often-used benchmark of eligibility for federal, state, and local social welfare benefits.¹ In 2005, the poverty threshold for a family of four in the continental United States was \$19,350.²

How Did It Begin?

In 1963, author Michael Harrington's "The Other America: Poverty in the United States" came to the attention of the Kennedy administration. In it, Harrington asserted that as many as fifty

million Americans were living in poverty. The federal government had never attempted to count the poor, and was now interested. By coincidence, a statistician in the Social Security Administration named Mollie Orshansky had that summer published an article, "Children of the Poor" in the Social Security Bulletin. In it she outlined simple food plans to create a budget for poor families. Rather than calculate the costs of other items, she relied on Department of Agriculture data which showed that the average American family spent a third of its money on food. To determine the minimum income needed for survival, she simply multiplied the cost of her food plan times three.³

Measure Widely Used

The Orshansky measure revealed that between fifteen and twenty million children were living in poverty: A large number of them from single-parent households and minority neighborhoods.



Mollie Orshansky-FPL creator

Source: Arizona Women's Foundation.

^{xv} Report by the Majority Staff of the Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Senate. "Equality in Job Loss: Women are Increasingly Vulnerable to Layoffs during Recession." July 2008.

^{xvi} Harlan, S. and Berheide, C.W. "Barriers to workplace Advancement and Experiences by Women in Low-Paying Occupations." Key Workplace Documents. Cornell University. 1994.

^{xvii} The Hartford Insurance Group and the Society of Actuaries.

^{xviii} These unemployment figures are for the civilian labor force.

Soon, Lyndon Johnson had declared a “War of Poverty” and made the Orshansky measure the method by which to determine eligibility for a vast array of new programs.

Orshansky was a dedicated civil servant who devoted her entire professional life to helping the poor—children in particular. It is likely she never intended her measure to be so widely applied, or used so long without revision. In any event, the FPL is now used to determine eligibility for at least \$60 billion annually in social welfare programs.

What’s The Problem?

The primary flaw in the current measure is that it fails to take into account the very problems facing working single mothers.

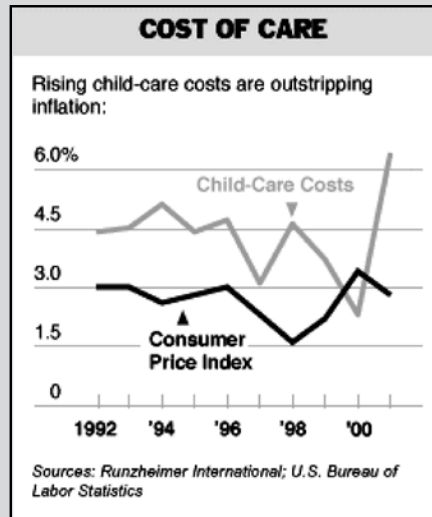
The vast majority of households which receive government assistance are headed by single

mothers. The measure does not take into account the costs of child care, transportation and other work-related expenses at all, and fails to adequately account for the exponential growth in the costs of health care and housing.⁴

FPL Especially Hard On Arizona Women

In Arizona, housing and child care are disproportionately expensive. For a family of four making \$33,000 a year, child care is the single biggest

expense- at \$932 (34%) per month, it exceeds even the cost of housing, \$817 (29%).⁵ Neither of these expenses is taken into account by the FPL- undoubtedly many working Arizona families are actually “working poor.”



Child care costs rising out of reach.

¹ Douglas J Besharov and Peter Germanis, Reconsidering the Federal Poverty Measure, June 14, 2004.

² 2005 United States Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines.

³ John Cassidy, Relatively Deprived, Annals of Economics, New Yorker Magazine, April 3, 2006.

⁴ Besharov and Vermanis.

⁵ Children’s Action Alliance Family Pie Chart, 2005.

^{xix} Data drawn from U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics.

^{xx} Phipps, S. “The Impact of Poverty on Health”. CPHI Collected Papers. June 2003.

^{xxi} Bell, D. “Poverty and Women’s Mental Health.” American Psychologist. Vol.45:3. 1990.

^{xxii} Brooks-Gunn, J. and Duncan, G. “The Effects of Poverty on Children.” Future of Children. Vol. 7:2. 1997.



Health and Well-Being

Good health is critical for women and girls in our community from before a girl is born until the day she dies. As a young woman, poor health can affect educational and employment opportunities and set females on a course for later, longer-term health problems.^{xxiii} Health concerns later in life can continue to affect employment, finances and family stability.^{xxiv}

Fortunately, because researchers are paying increasing attention to the health issues of women and girls at different points in their lives, more information is available on ways in which they can maintain good health. Nevertheless, substantial gaps remain in publically available data on health at local and regional levels that would permit identification of specific problems and needs. Moreover, a critical challenge across the nation and in Southern Arizona, is developing appropriate health insurance coverage to support women's and girls' access to quality care.

In this section we present data related to women's health across the life span. We begin by examining sequential stages of life, looking especially at leading causes of death, then review some cross-cutting issues relating to diseases and mental health. We conclude with attention to

Key Facts

- In 2006 one in seven births in Southern Arizona were to a female under age 20.
- In 2006 the leading cause of death of girls ages 15 to 19 years old was motor vehicle accidents.
- Of all births in Southern Arizona in 2006, one-fourth did not receive any prenatal care in the first trimester.
- Cardiovascular disease—also known as heart disease—continues to be the leading cause of death of women in Southern Arizona.
- Among women ages 45 to 64, cancer was the leading cause of death in 2006.
- Southern Arizona women live, on average, seven years longer than men.
- In Southern Arizona uninsured rates for the total population ranged from 18 percent in Pima County to 30 percent in Santa Cruz County in 2000.



health insurance and identify some further information that would allow presentation of a more complete picture of the health and well-being of girls and women in Southern Arizona.

Health Across the Stages of Life

Detailed data on health of women and girls, especially at the county level, are only available for selected conditions, primarily pregnancy and child birth and causes of death. While we report these, it is important to draw attention to the many other health issues that women face in their physical and mental health, and especially to consider how these vary across the life span.

Adolescents (15-19 years of age) Mortality data indicate that adolescent girls are at lower risk for death than boys, accounting for 29 percent of all deaths in this age group in Arizona in 2006. Statewide, the highest cause of death for adolescent girls is motor vehicle accidents, followed by homicide and suicide. Beyond mortality, however, adolescent girls face an array of other health issues that can have wider and long-term implications, related for example to body image (e.g. anorexia) and exposure to drug and alcohol cultures.

Teen pregnancy and births: In 2006 about one in every seven births in Southern Arizona was to a female under age 20—this rate holds true

Maternal and Newborn Health

There is an important connection between the health of a pregnant mother and the health of her newborn child.

- **Prenatal Care:** Good prenatal care is essential to protecting the health of the mother and child. In fact, births to mothers who have not received recommended prenatal care are three times more likely to be born low-birth weight.

Of all births in Southern Arizona in 2006, 74 percent began prenatal care in the first trimester. The rates of prenatal care vary by county—with 83 percent of births in Cochise County receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, 74 percent of births in Pima County, and 68 percent in Santa Cruz County. These represent higher percentages than for women statewide, yet birth outcomes were poorer in Southern Arizona, with higher than the state average rates of infant mortality in Cochise and Pima Counties, and 6 percent rate of congenital abnormalities at birth reported for Santa Cruz County, six times higher than the state level.

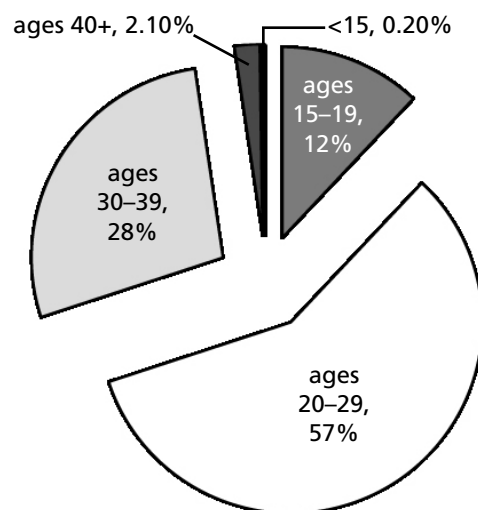
- **Low-Birth Weight Infants:** Low-birth weight infants are more likely than other babies to suffer from health and learning problems. In addition, they cost considerably more during their first year of life than children born at normal birth weights. In 2006 1,270 women in Southern Arizona gave birth to low-weight babies. This is eight percent of all Southern Arizona births in 2006 and a one percent increase in the number of low birth-weight births since 2000.

statewide, though rates fluctuate from year to year. In Southern Arizona they declined between 1995 and 2005, but increased slightly from 10.2 percent of births in 2005 to 10.4 percent in 2006. Of the 2,098 births to girls under age 20 in Southern Arizona, 65 percent (or 1,364) were to girls ages 18 or 19, and 34 percent (or, 713) to girls ages 15 to 17.

Research indicates that teen pregnancy may have negative consequences for teen mothers, their children and society. Less than 40 percent of mothers who have their first child before age 18



CHART 13
**Ages of Mothers Giving Birth
in Southern Arizona, 2000**



Sources: U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Health Services Research Administration. Future of Children.

Source: Arizona Department of Public Health, 2006.



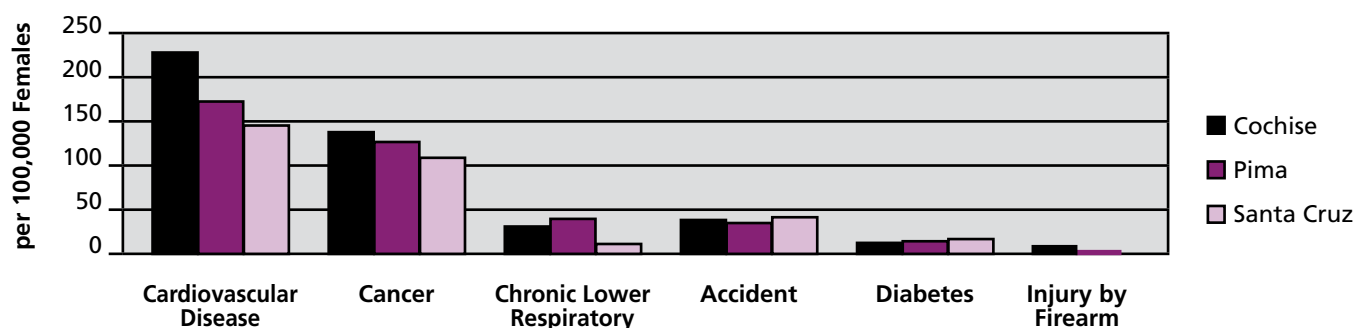
earn a high school diploma, and their children are also less likely to graduate from high school and more likely to be in foster care. Recent estimates peg the public costs of births to teens 17 and younger at between \$7.6 and \$9.1 million per year.^{xxv}

Women in Young Adulthood (20-44 years of age) These are the years when women are most likely to become pregnant and bear children. Of 16,490 births in Southern Arizona in 2006, 57 percent were to mothers ages 20-29 and another 28 percent were to mothers ages 30-39. This number of births represents a 10 percent increase over 2000, one-half the rate of the increase seen statewide. County differences were evident in the changes in the number of births in this period, increasing by four percent in Cochise County and 11 percent in Pima County, but decreasing by six percent in Santa Cruz County. Of all the births, 51 percent were to Hispanic mothers, 38 percent were to white, non-Hispanic mothers, four percent were to African American mothers, and four percent were to Native American mothers.

Causes of Death: Pregnancy is not the only health issue that needs to be considered for young adult women, however. County level data are not available, but in Arizona the leading cause of death for women in this age group is cancer (16.4 deaths per 100,000) followed by motor vehicle accidents (13.1 per 100,000) and accidental poisoning (8.9 per 100,000) (most likely connected to drug and alcohol consumption) and suicide (5 per 100,000). These rates indicate that mental health is an important issue to address for this age group.

Women in Middle Age (45-64) Cancer is the single most common cause of death among this group of women in Southern Arizona, accounting for 166.2 deaths per 100,000, followed by cardiovascular diseases (66.4 per 100,000). Lung cancer accounted for more deaths among this age group in Cochise County than did breast or cervical cancers, while in Santa Cruz County, breast cancer (29.1 per 100,000) was the highest cause of death and the highest rate in the state for this age group. Statewide, lung cancer

CHART 14

Female Death Rates by Cause, 2006

Source: Arizona Department of Health, 2006.

accounted for most deaths among white and African American women; breast cancer among Hispanic and Native American women.

Diabetes was the 4th most common cause of death statewide among this age group, but its incidence is especially high among Native American women. Some estimates are that the incidence of diabetes among Tohono O'odham women is the highest in the world, with onset occurring at a much earlier age than in white populations.

Older Women (Over Age 65) On average, Arizona women, with a median age at death of 80 years, live longer than do men (median age of death 73 years). In Southern Arizona median age of death for women varied across counties: 81 years in Pima County, 79.5 years in Santa Cruz County, and 78 years in Cochise County. By ethnic groups, differences in median age at death for the state are considerable: 66 years for Native American women, 71 years for Hispanic and African American women, 73 for Asian American women, and 81 for white (non-Hispanic). Most commonly recorded cause of death is cardiovascular (969/100,000), followed by cancers (713.1/100,000) and

Alzheimer's (317.9). We should note that cardiovascular related deaths are often also associated with other forms of ill health. For example, it has been reported that falls associated with diseases such as arthritis or osteoporosis, which are common among older women, will be followed by death within a year in 50 percent of cases where the person has fallen a second time.^{xxvi} It is also noteworthy that although women are living longer, in 2007 the U.S. remained 36th among nations in female life expectancy.^{xxvii}

Women, Girls and Disease

Women and girls have more complex health needs than men and boys as well as a higher incidence of chronic illnesses for which they need ongoing treatment.^{xxviii} Some diseases, including communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and some cancers can be prevented. Unfortunately, lack of any source of uniform information precludes presentation of detailed information for Southern Arizona, but we can get some insights into such health issues from various sources. A selection of these indicates the following:



- **Communicable Diseases:** A communicable disease is one that can be transmitted from one human to another by physical contact or close proximity. In 2006 there were 2,930 reported cases of communicable disease^{xxxix} in Southern Arizona. Of that number, 49 percent (or 1,436) were females.

- **STDs:** In 2006 there were 5,475 reported cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in Southern Arizona. While data are not available for STDs among females, nationally we know that STDs infect 26 percent of female teens.^{xxx}

- **HIV/AIDS:** Data on HIV/AIDS are not available by gender for Southern Arizona counties. However, in 2006 there were 134 new HIV/AIDS cases reported in Southern Arizona. Nationally, more than 25 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases are women.^{xxxi}

- **Cancer:** In 2004 there were 4,990 incidences of cancer in Southern Arizona. Of these, 49 percent (or 2,442) were females. Females in Southern Arizona have a cancer incidence rate of 391 per 100,000. This is lower than the male cancer incidence rate of 474 per 100,000.

Mental Health: Good mental health is a concern throughout life's stages. We all face traumatic events such as dealing with a loved one's serious illness or death, a loss of a job, and too many women are subjected to domestic violence or sexual assault. Changes in our physical health also affect our mental

health. A woman's mental health is at greater risk for problems such as depression during puberty, after having a baby, and in the years just before menopause. Depression also accompanies many major illnesses.^{xxxii}

Nationally we know that^{xxxiii}:

- One in four women will experience severe depression at some point in life.

- Depression affects twice as many women as men.
- Only about one-fifth of all women who suffer from depression seek treatment.
- Panic disorders are twice as common in women as men.
- 90 percent of people with eating disorders are women.

Unfortunately, no data exist on the incidence of diverse mental illnesses among women and girls in Southern Arizona.



The National Center on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (NCASA), however, reports that women and girls become addicted to alcohol, nicotine, illegal and prescription drugs more quickly than men and boys, and suffer more severe brain damage as a result. It is estimated that the majority of women in need of treatment for alcohol and drug problems do not receive needed care.^{xxxiv}

In Arizona in 2006, the category of suicide and accidental poisoning was the fourth most frequent cause of death for women between the ages of 20 and 44, though women over 45 accounted for 37 percent of suicides among women. In Southern

Arizona the incidence of suicide varied considerably across counties, from 6.3/100,000 in Pima County to 14.4/100,000 in Cochise County, more than double the statewide rate.

Drug-induced deaths in 2006 occurred at rates above the state level in Cochise and Pima Counties (17.2 per 100,000 and 13.3 per 100,000 respectively, compared to the Arizona rate of 11.5/100,000), while alcohol-induced deaths were lower than or comparable to the state rate of 5.6/100,000 (Cochise, 1.4/100,000; Pima 5.6/100,000; Santa Cruz 5.1 100,000). These deaths include cases where drug and alcohol use is a primary or contributing cause, as, for example, in automobile accidents.^{xxxv}

Health Insurance and Health Care Services

Remaining healthy requires access to health services—doctor visits, tests, prescriptions, X-rays, surgeries, etc. People without health insurance have great difficulty accessing these basic, and sometimes lifesaving, health services.^{xxxvi}

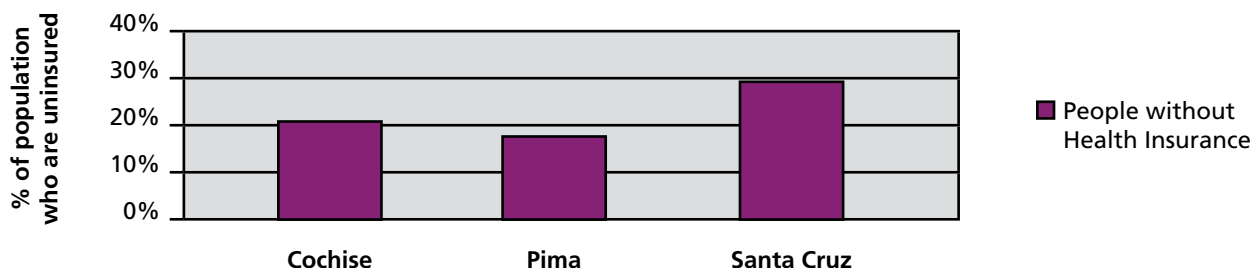
Unfortunately, across the country too many women and girls do not have health insurance. While data are not available at the local level, at the state level 21 percent of women and girls do not have health insurance.^{xxxvii}

Race and Ethnicity: Lack of health insurance varies by race and ethnicity. In Arizona Hispanic and black women are three times more likely than non-Hispanic white women to lack health insurance.

Working Women: While we might think that only unemployed women lack health insurance, low-income *working* women are more likely to be



CHART 15
Southern Arizonans without Health Insurance, 2000



Source: U.S. Census, Model-based Small Area Health Insurance Estimates for Counties and States, 2000.



uninsured than other women. Fifty-eight percent of Arizona's uninsured women have a year-round income of \$30,000 or more.

While we do not know the gender of the uninsured in Southern Arizona, we do know that a lack of insurance is a problem. In Southern Arizona the 2000 uninsured rates ranged from 18 percent in Pima County to 30 percent in Santa Cruz County.^{xxxviii} Across the state in 2005, among women aged 18-64, 40 percent of Hispanic women were uninsured, 32 percent of African American women, and 14 percent of white (non-Hispanic). Among women-headed households (no spouse present) in this age group, 36 percent were uninsured.^{xxxix}

AHCCCS: Arizona's Medicaid program, AHCCCS, is designed to deliver health care services to uninsured adults and children. To qualify for AHCCCS, an adult women living alone must have a monthly income of \$857 or less per month, or approximately \$10,000 per year (after taxes). For women living with a spouse the maximum household income is \$1167. In both Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties the percentage of residents enrolled in AHCCCS is higher than the state average at 17% and 26% respectively. Pima County's AHCCCS enrollment matches the state percentage of 14%.

Access to Health Care: Health insurance is just one factor in ensuring women and girls get needed health care. Availability of medical professionals is also critical. No data exist on the ability of women and girls to access health care in Southern Arizona. However, we do know that parts of Southern Arizona suffer from severe shortages of health care

professionals. Statewide there are 660 residents for every primary care physician. In Pima County there are 625 residents for every primary care physician, in Cochise County there are 1,022 residents for every primary care physician and in Santa Cruz County there are 1,327 people for every primary care physician.



Further, for some of the most important health care services for women there are few trained medical professionals. For example, public medical colleges are limited in their ability to train doctors on the full range of medical services, including legal abortions, because the Arizona legislature prohibits an

educational training facility under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents from providing an abortion unless it is to save the life of the mother.^{xl}

Additionally, women in rural areas lack easy access to obstetricians/gynecologists (ob/gyns). Santa Cruz County has only four ob/gyns to serve a population of 17,854 women aged 18 or older, all of whom practice in Nogales. In Cochise County there are only eight ob/gyns serving a population of 52,860 of women over the age of 18, and all but two practice in Sierra Vista. While women in metropolitan Tucson, including Green Valley, Marana and Oro Valley, have 131 ob/gyns from which to choose, women on the Tohono O'odham reservation and in Ajo must travel to Tucson to receive this specialized treatment.^{xli}

What's Missing

While much important and up-to-date information on the health status of girls and women in Southern Arizona does exist, there is much more information we need to get a complete picture, including:

- **Lack of Health Insurance:** Lack of health insurance is a crisis facing our nation. Unfortunately there is no reliable source of data on women who lack health insurance in Southern Arizona.
- **Medical Care:** Access to health services is critical to getting and remaining healthy. However, we do not have good information on the ability of women and girls in Southern Arizona to secure appropriate medical care.
- **Mental Health:** National data indicate that many women suffer from mental health problems. However, we were only able to find

limited information on the mental health status of women in Southern Arizona.

- **STDs:** To address the spread of STDs, we need reliable data on the incidence of STDs among women and girls in Southern Arizona.
- **HIV/AIDS:** There is evidence that women may be more likely than men to be newly impacted by HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, there is no accessible source of data on the number of HIV/AIDS cases in Southern Arizona by gender.

^{xxiii} Hass, S. and N.E. Fosse. "Health and the Academic Achievement and Educational Attainment of Adolescents." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. 2006.

^{xxiv} Romero, D., Chaukin, W., Wise, P., Smith, L. and Wood, P. "Welfare and Work: Impact of Maternal Health on Employment." American Journal of Public Health. Vol. 92:9. 2002.

^{xxv} Hoffman, S. "Kids Having Kids: Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy" and the Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

^{xxvi} Glatke, T. and Heick, J. "When your world gets out of balance" Seminar, Carondelet Neurological Institute, September 20, 2008.

^{xxvii} Population Reference Bureau. http://www.prb.org/pdf07/07WPDS_Eng.pdf

^{xxviii} Kaiser Foundation.

^{xxix} The list of communicable disease compiled by Arizona Health Department and Vital Statistics includes: Campylobacteriosis, Coccidioidomycosis, E. coli, Giardiasis, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B (acute), Hepatitis B (chronic), Haemophilus Influenza (Invasive), Legionellosis, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, Meningitis – Aseptic, Mumps, Pertussis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Streptococcus Group A, Streptococcus Group B (Invasive, < 90 days), Streptococcus pneumonia, Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus, and West Nile Virus.

^{xxx} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

^{xxxi} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <http://www.womenshealth.gov/hiv/>

^{xxxii} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Woman's Health Bureau.

^{xxxiii} National Mental Health Information Center. <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov>

^{xxxiv} National Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse. Women Under the Influence. 2007.

^{xxxv} Arizona Department of Health, Health Statistics and Vital Statistics Section, 2006.

^{xxxvi} Committee on the Consequences of Uninsurance. "A Shared Destiny: Community Effects of Uninsurance." National Academy Press. 2003.

^{xxxvii} Children's Action Alliance. www.azchildren.org.

^{xxxviii} While data from the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates for Counties and States are available for recent years, the margins of error are so large that the data are not reliable.

^{xxxix} U.S. Census. Current Population Survey, 2006. Annual Social and Economic Supplement, based on 2005 Income Data.

^{xl} Arizona Revised Statutes. 15-1630. Abortion at educational facility prohibited; exception.

^{xli} Arizona Department of Health, Health Statistics and Vital Statistics Section, 2006.



Violence and Crime

Crime and violence touch the lives of all kinds of women—young and old, rich and poor. And, research indicates, this violence can have short- and long-term negative consequences for women and girls.

Violence: Young women who are victims of abuse and neglect often bear physical and emotional scars throughout their lives. Physical consequences, such as damage to a girl's growing brain, can have psychological implications, such as cognitive delays or emotional difficulties. Furthermore, psychological problems often manifest as high-risk behaviors. Depression and anxiety, for example, may make a girl more likely to smoke, abuse alcohol or illicit drugs, or have eating disorders. High-risk behaviors can lead to long-term physical health problems such as sexually transmitted diseases, cancer and obesity.^{xlii}

Adult women who are victims of violence, both domestic and otherwise, can also experience immediate and long-term consequences. Women who are victims of violence can suffer physical, emotional and financial distress. This, in turn, has real impact on their ability to care for themselves and their families.^{xliii}

Crime: Women and girls are not only victims of crime; they are also increasingly perpetrators of crime. As violence in communities escalates, women and girls all too often get caught up in crime.

In this section we review data on girls as victims of abuse and neglect, girls and youth in foster care,

women as victims of crime including domestic violence, and women as perpetrators of crime.

Abuse and Neglect of Girls

The experience of physical abuse or neglect is a complex event that may trigger social, emotional and physical consequences.

The impact of abuse is far greater than its immediate, visible effects. Abuse and neglect are associated with short- and long-term consequences that may include brain damage, developmental delays, learning disorders, problems forming relationships, aggressive behavior and depression.^{xliv}

Abuse and neglect of children touches every community. Southern Arizona has seen a number of high profile cases of abuse and neglect resulting in the death of children.

In 2007 there were 907 confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Southern Arizona.^{xlv} Of these, just over half—466—were girls. These figures are lower than in 2000, when there were 1,113 cases of abuse and neglect (562 were

girls). The statistics likely underestimate the scope of the problem as some children who are abused or neglected are never reported to the public system.

Girls in Foster Care: The foster care system was established to provide a safe haven for children whose family life was so unstable that they needed to be removed. While for many abused and neglected children their foster care setting does provide a more

Key Facts

- In 2007 466 girls in Southern Arizona were found to be victims of abuse or neglect.
- In 2008 there were 1,282 girls in foster care in Southern Arizona.
- In 2004 there were 6,382 domestic violence arrests—about 18 arrests per day—and 1,283 domestic violence convictions in Southern Arizona.
- 27 percent of crimes in Southern Arizona were committed by a female in 2007. One-quarter of the crimes committed by females were committed by girls under age 18.

stable and safe environment, foster children still experience higher rates of violence, crime, and poor educational and health outcomes. As of July 1, 2008, there were 2,671 children in foster care in Southern Arizona—48 percent (or 1,282) were girls. This rate is fairly constant across the three counties (with Cochise County having a slightly lower percentage of youth in foster care who are girls) and across the past three years.

Women and Girls as Victims of Violence

We see it in the news everyday—women are victims of violence. Violence runs the gamut from fraud and petty crime, to gun violence and domestic violence. Unfortunately, little systematic data is collected on women as victims of crimes.

Domestic violence is one of the major sources of violence in the lives of women and girls. According to the Morrison Institute for Public Policy, “Domestic violence is a highly destructive force in Arizona’s families and communities.

Throughout the state, it ranks among the most frequent violence-related crimes reported to Arizona law enforcement. Often highly repetitive, domestic violence spawns other crime and social dysfunction, imposes significant public-sector costs, and takes a lasting toll on children.”^{xlvi}

Very few data exist on domestic violence. However, according to the National Census of Domestic Violence Services, in one day 1,122 adults and



What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of behaviors involving physical, sexual, economic and emotional abuse, alone or in combination, by an intimate partner, often for the purpose of establishing and maintaining power and control over the other partner. While domestic violence occurs in all types of intimate relationships, it is overwhelmingly a problem of violence perpetrated by men against women.

Source: US Commission on Domestic Violence Fatalities

children in Arizona seek services from domestic violence agencies. Nationally, 85 percent of domestic violence victims are women.^{xlvi}

Only a fraction of domestic violence cases are ever reported. And in even fewer reported cases is an aggressor arrested and sent to trial. However we do know that:

- In 2004 there were 6,382 domestic violence arrests (nearly 18 per day) in Southern Arizona. In the same year there were 1,283 domestic violence convictions.^{xlvi}
- Between 2003 and 2004 domestic violence arrests decreased by 373 and convictions decreased by 772.^{xlvi}

Emergency Services for Domestic Violence Victims and their Children: While not all women fleeing violent relationships look for shelter, we know that low-income women often have the fewest resources and fewer options and so are forced to look for publically-supported domestic violence shelters.¹

While there is no central source of data on women and children living in domestic violence shelters, data for Southern Arizona family shelters are:

- **Tucson:** Between July 2006 and June 2007, Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse had to turn away 801 women seeking shelter due to lack of sufficient resources. (Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse was formed out of the merger of Tucson Centers for Women and Children and Brewster Center. The numbers here are the



aggregates of the two entities now merged.)

- **Areas Outside of Tucson:** Forgach House (Sierra Vista), House of Hope (Douglas), Our House (Nogales) did not have to turn away any clients in 2007. While the Tohono O'odham Nation operates a domestic violence shelter in Sells, information regarding this program was not available.

Beyond Immediate Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence: In 2007 the Arizona Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families convened a meeting of domestic violence service providers, survivors and other stakeholder groups involved in the issue of domestic violence. A needs survey among 291 participants highlighted longer-term issues in addition to emergency services, especially for financial assistance for needs such as rent, utilities, food and childcare and for employment assistance that would enable women to establish themselves in independent living away from potentially a violent partner. Survey respondents also identified legal barriers most frequently faced by victims including child custody issues, protective orders issuance, divorce issues and immigration-related concerns.^{li}

Women and Girls Committing Crimes

There is a common perception that the criminal behavior of women and the delinquent behavior of

girls are not serious problems. However, involvement in crime is a signal of other serious problems—lack of economic opportunity, family dysfunction, drug use, mental illness, etc. And, involvement in criminal activity can have important long-term consequences, including an inability to get a job, family disintegration and future criminal activity.^{lii}

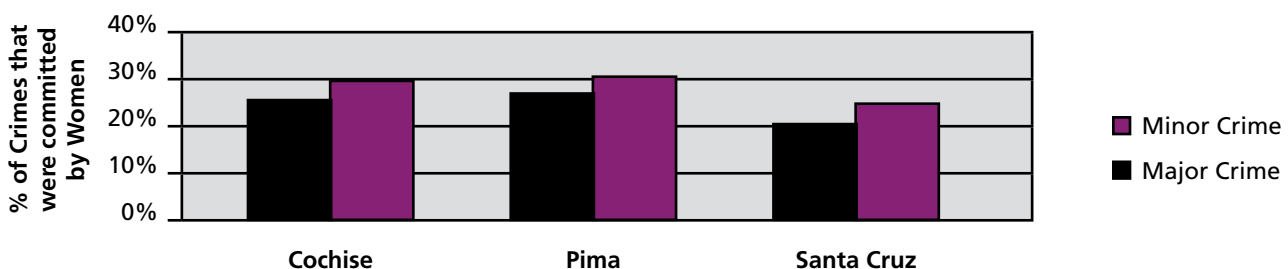
Of the 78,415 crimes committed in Southern Arizona in 2007, 21,492—or 27 percent—were committed by females. This is a three percentage point increase over the 2000 rate of 24 percent.

Of all crimes committed by females in Southern Arizona, 5,394—or 25 percent—were committed by girls (under age 18). By comparison, of the 56,923 crimes committed by males in Southern Arizona in 2007, 15 percent were committed by boys (under age 18).

In 2007 women accounted for a higher proportion of people committing major crimes than minor crimes. In 2007 30 percent of major crimes were committed by women, whereas 27 percent of minor crimes were committed by women. According to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, minor crimes include simple assaults, forgery, embezzlement, obtaining stolen property, vandalism and prostitution. Major crimes include murder, non-negligent homicide, rape and robbery.

CHART 16

Crimes Committed by Women in Southern Arizona, 2007



Source: Arizona Department of Public Safety, 2007.

Incarceration

In Arizona and in the U.S. women are the fastest-growing sector of the prison population. At the beginning of 2008, approximately 3,400 women were incarcerated in Arizona state prisons, an increase of 35 percent since 2004, and over a 1,700 percent increase between 1977 and 2007. Arizona's 2004 female imprisonment rate of 89 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents was the seventh highest female imprisonment rate in the country. Locally, in February of 2007, approximately 14 percent of all state prisoners (men and women) were from Pima County. Figures for the exact number of Southern Arizona women incarcerated in Arizona state prisons were unavailable, but we do know that in addition to women incarcerated in state prisons, there are approximately 350 women incarcerated in the Pima County Jail at any given time. Studies, as well as anecdotal information from those connected to the justice system, acknowledge that involvement with drugs is a precursor to incarceration for a vast majority of incarcerated women. Three-fourths of incarcerated women in Arizona are serving time for non-violent offenses and over half for low-level offenses.^{liii} In addition to the severity of the substance abuse treatment needs these figures suggest, it should

be noted that national estimates of incarcerated women indicate at least 80 percent are mothers with an average of two minor children.^{liv}

What's Missing

While violence touches the lives of many girls and women, it is an area of little available data. To help our understanding of the violence faced by women and girls, we need better data on:

- **Domestic Violence:** There is a dearth of regular, reliable data on the extent of domestic violence in our community. Without this information, efforts to prevent and treat domestic violence are hamstrung.
- **Victims of Crimes:** Very little information exists on girls and women as victims of crimes in Southern Arizona. Because of the long-term impact of being a victim of crime, it is important to track this information.
- **Incarceration:** There is a lack of data about women in prisons in Southern Arizona counties. In order to understand the impact of incarceration, data including gender, length of stay, and presence of children are critical.

^{xlii} Perry, B. and Marcellus, J. "The Impact of Abuse and Neglect on the Developing Brain." *Colleagues for Children*. Vol 7. 1997.

^{xliii} Hong, M. *Family Abuse, A National Epidemic*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc. 1997.

^{xliv} Bell, D., Foster, S., and Mash, E. *Handbook of Behavioral and Emotional Problems in Girls*. 2005.

^{xlv} Data provided by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Welfare Division.

^{xlvi} Morrison Institute for Public Policy. *System Alert: Arizona's Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence*, 2007.

^{xlvii} Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Factbook: Violence by Intimates*, 1998, NCJ-167237.

^{xlviii} Morrison Institute for Public Policy --Layers of Meaning. Available online.

^{xlix} 2005 data is available through August.

ⁱ Family Violence Prevention Fund, "Speaking Up," Vol. 8, Issue 6, 1998.

^{li} Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. "Conversations: Keeping Victims Safe Participant Survey, August 2007.

^{lii} Norton-Hawk, M. "Unproductive Expenditures: Why Health Services for Post-Incarceration Women are Ineffective." In *Women, Girls, and Criminal Justice*. 2008.

^{liii} Arizona, *Prison Crisis: A Call for Smart on Crime Solutions, Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)*, 2004.

^{liv} Cincotta, T. and Solomon, A. (2003). *Families Left Behind: The Hidden Costs of Incarceration and Reentry*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center.



Women and Political Participation

Voting and elections are central to our democracy.

While nationally women came later to this process than men – only earning the right to vote in 1920 – Arizona granted women the right to vote at statehood in 1912. And, historically, Arizona has had a long history of women holding public office. Arizona has had the most female governors of any state (four), and is one of only two states where female governors have been elected from both major parties.

Women in Elected Office

Of the two U.S. Congressional representatives serving Southern Arizona, one is a woman, only the third woman elected to the U.S. House from Arizona. She was joined in 2009 by a woman Representative from Northern Arizona.

In Southern Arizona women comprise 25% of the region's state House members (versus 27% statewide) and 33.3% of state Senators (versus 40% statewide).

In the 2008 elections women actually lost ground in the state legislature. Statewide, women's representation declined by one seat in both the Arizona House and Senate.

In Southern Arizona this decline was more marked. Of the six legislative districts comprising the majority of our three-county area, we are represented by three women in the state House, down from five in 2008, and two women in the Senate, as compared to three in 2008.

Two of the five justices on the Arizona Supreme Court are women. Of the six judges who comprise Division Two of the Court of Appeals, which serves Southern Arizona, none are women, as compared to Division One, where 31% of the judges are women, including the Division's Chief Judge.

TABLE 3

Women's Political Representation in Southern Arizona, 2009

	Cochise	Pima	Santa Cruz
Percent of City, Town and Tribal Council Members who are Female	28%	45%	20%
Percent of Mayors who are Female	0%	29%	0%
Percent of Justice Court Judges who are Female	17%	56%	50%
Percent of Superior Court Judges who are Female	33%	39%	66%
Percent of County Supervisors who are Female	33%	40%	0%

Source: Women's Foundation Research, 2009.

Women are also represented among local elected officials.

Of note is the fact that women comprise 73 percent of the Tohono O'odham Tribal Council, and 80 percent of their judiciary.

Women and Voting

In 2000, 54 percent of Arizona women were registered to vote and only 41 percent of women voted, giving Arizona the dubious distinction of having the second lowest voter participation rate among women of any state in the nation.

Unfortunately, little is known about voter registration and voting patterns among women in Southern Arizona. Because gender is not noted during voter registration, there is no uniform, credible source of data on voter registration and voting patterns among women.

Appendix

Demographics

Total Population of Southern Arizona

County	1990			2000			2006 ^{iv}		
	Total pop. ^{lv}	Female Pop.	% Female	Total pop.	Female Pop.	% Female	Total pop.	Female Pop.	% Female
Cochise	97,624	47,897	49%	117,755	58,398	50%	127,757	64,170	50%
Pima	666,880	340,614	51%	843,746	431,184	51%	946,362	483,999	51%
Santa Cruz	29,676	15,545	52%	38,381	20,018	52%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAZ	794,180	404,056	51%	999,882	509,600	51%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Data for 1990 and 2000 came from the U.S. Census for those respective years. The 2006 information came from the 2006 American Community Survey. All data are available online at: www.factfinder.census.gov/

Southern Arizona Female Population by Age, 1990, 2000, and 2006

		<5vr		5-14vrs		15-24vrs		25-34vrs	
Cochise	1990	3,578	7.5%	7,455	15.6%	6,512	13.6%	7,181	15.0%
	2000	3,945	6.8%	8,682	14.9%	7,545	12.9%	6,622	11.3%
	2006	3,989	6.6%	8,469	12.8%	8,044	12.9%	7,425	12.0%
Pima	1990	24,270	7.1%	44,680	13.1%	51,023	15.0%	56,455	16.6%
	2000	27,184	6.3%	57,408	13.3%	62,388	14.5%	56,115	13.0%
	2006	32,743	6.6%	60,355	12.4%	67,485	14.0%	62,332	13.0%

		35-44vrs		45-54vrs		55-64vrs		65+vrs	
Cochise	1990	6,666	13.9%	5,047	10.5%	4,709	9.8%	6,749	14.1%
	2000	8,253	14.1%	7,709	13.2%	6,461	11.1%	9,181	15.7%
	2006	7,599	11.8%	9,171	14.0%	8,116	13.2%	10,887	17.2%
Pima	1990	49,051	14.4%	32,362	9.5%	29,859	8.8%	52,914	15.5%
	2000	63,959	14.8%	56,809	13.2%	39,383	9.1%	67,938	15.8%
	2006	63,546	12.9%	66,047	13.9%	53,101	11.1%	78,390	16.1%

		Total
Cochise	1990	47,897
	2000	58,398
	2006	63,700
Pima	1990	340,614
	2000	431,184
	2006	483,999

^{iv} 2006 data, unless otherwise noted, came from the 2006 American Community Survey. This provides population estimates and margin of error. For the purposes of comparison the estimates have been used. Also, if the population is so small as to make meaningful estimates impossible, the American Community Survey will skip particular data points. Most relevant for our purposes, this survey does not provide any data of Santa Cruz County.

^{lv} "Pop." will be the shorthand for population for the remainder of the appendix.

^{lvii} All percentages are generated by dividing the total female population for a respective age category by the total female population in the respective county.



Southern Arizona Female Population by Race and Ethnicity, 1990, 2000, and 2006

		White		Black		American Indian	
Cochise	1990	39,163	81.8%	2,064	4.3%	325	0.7%
	2000	44,900	76.9%	2,296	3.9%	595	1.0%
	2006	53,716	84.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pima	1990	269,074	79.0%	9,764	2.9%	10,446	3.1%
	2000	324,948	75.4%	12,120	2.8%	13,947	3.2%
	2006	339,738	72.0%	13,418	2.9%	17,058	4.0%

		Asian and Pacific Islander		Other*		Hispanic [†]	
Cochise	1990	1,438	3.0%	4,907	10.2%	14,288	29.8%
	2000	1,462	2.5%	9,145	15.7%	18,279	31.3%
	2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	20,741	32.0%
Pima	1990	6,270	1.8%	45,060	13.2%	83,018	24.4%
	2000	9,816	2.3%	70,353	16.3%	125,629	29.1%
	2006	NA	NA	100,408	21.0%	155,540	32.0%

Female Headed Households in Southern Arizona, 2000

		Cochise		Pima		Santa Cruz		Southern Arizona	
Total Household	2000	43,896		332,497		11,821		388,214	
Female Headed Household*	2000	11,258	25.6%	100,221	30.1%	2,942	24.9%	114,421	29.5%
Female Family household- no Husband w/children [†]	2000	2,893	25.7%	22,758	22.7%	1,042	35.4%	26,693	23.3%

*Category combines Single female households, Female family household with no husband, and Female Non- Family House hold. Percentages are from Total households.

[†] Percentage are from Female headed household

^{lviii} All percentages are generated by dividing the total female population for a respective race/ethnic category by the total female population in the respective county.

Education

High School Completion, 2006

	2006		
County	# of High School Completers	Female HS Completers # (%)	Male HS Completers # (%)
Cochise	1,213 (71%)	606 (76%)	607 (67%)
Pima	8,152 (67%)	4,328 (72%)	3,824 (63%)
Santa Cruz	612 (66%)	337 (74%)	275 (58%)
Southern AZ	9,977 (68%)	5,271 (72%)	4,706 (63%)

2006 Graduation Rate. Students who started high school in 2000-2001 and completed within four years.
 Arizona Department of Education, www.factfinder.census.gov/

Educational Attainment, 2000

	Total Pop. Ages 25 and Older			No High School		HS/GED		Some College		College		Advanced Degrees	
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Cochise	75,774	37,411	38,363	7,108 (19%)	8,455 (22%)	8,813 (24%)	9,857 (26%)	13,262 (35%)	14,032 (37%)	5,216 (14%)	4,174 (11%)	3,012 (8%)	1,845 (5%)
Pima	546,200	260,541	285,659	42,038 (16%)	48,445 (17%)	56,907 (22%)	70,436 (25%)	85,838 (33%)	96,428 (34%)	43,390 (17%)	43,362 (15%)	32,368 (12%)	26,988 (9%)
Santa Cruz	22,445	10,252	12,193	3,633 (35%)	5,197 (43%)	2,281 (22%)	2,843 (23%)	2,371 (23%)	2,718 (22%)	1,164 (11%)	844 (7%)	803 (8%)	591 (5%)
Southern AZ	644,419	308,204	336,215	52,779 (17%)	62,097 (18%)	68,001 (22%)	83,136 (25%)	101,471 (33%)	113,178 (34%)	49,770 (16%)	48,380 (14%)	36,183 (12%)	29,424 (9%)

2000 U.S. Census. Persons ages 25 and older. All data are available online at: www.factfinder.census.gov/



Work and Earnings

Female Employment in Southern Arizona, 2000

		Total Female Labor force (Ages 16 and older)	Employed Civilian Females	Unemployed Females
Cochise	2000	22,882	20,454	1,546
Pima	2000	183,798	173,242	9,641
Santa Cruz	2000	6,012	5,423	584
Southern Arizona	2000	212,692	199,199	11,771

Females in Civilian Occupations, 2000 (% of females workers)

	Management, Professional or Related	Service	Sales and Office	Farming, etc.	Construction, etc.	Production, etc.
Cochise	6,680 (33%)	4,670(23%)	7,970(39%)	129(1%)	129 (0.6%)	876 (4%)
Pima	63,749(37%)	34,264(20%)	64,783(37%)	197(0.1%)	1,542(1%)	8,707(5%)
Santa Cruz	1,523(28%)	1,072(20%)	2,298(42%)	65(1%)	24(0.4%)	441(8%)
Southern AZ	71,952(36%)	40,006(20%)	75,051(8%)	391(0.2%)	1,695(1%)	10,024(5%)

2000 U.S. Census. All data are available online at: www.factfinder.census.gov/

Business Owner

	2002			
County	Total Firms	Total Receipts	Total Firms Owned by Females (%)	Total Receipts by Female Owned Firms # (%)
Cochise	7,380	\$2,775,669	2,166(29%)	\$218,171(8%)
Pima	62,086	\$38,599,654	19,262(31%)	\$2,330,625(6%)
Santa Cruz	3,473	\$2,229,519	872(25%)	\$264,245(12%)
Southern AZ	72,939	\$43,604,842	22,300(31%)	\$2,813,041(6%)

2002 Survey of Business Owners: www.factfinder.census.gov/

Earnings

	2000		
County	Median Income ^{ix}	Median Income Males	Median Income Females
Cochise	\$18,745	\$23,666	\$14,036
Pima	\$20,444	\$24,690	\$16,447
Santa Cruz	\$17,600	\$21,707	\$12,690

2000 U.S. Census. All workers ages 16 and older. All data are available online at: www.factfinder.census.gov/

^{ix} Total population equals all female individuals 16 yrs and older who are employed or currently seeking employments

^{ix} This number is all civilians and enlisted females currently holding a job. This number does not include those females currently enlisted in the military. The percentage represents the female employment divided by total female labor force.

^{ix} Total population all individuals 16 yrs or older with earnings.

Earnings—Full-Time, Year Round Workers

County	2000		
	Median Income ^{lxii}	Median Income Males	Median Income Females
Cochise	\$27,012	\$30,533	\$22,252
Pima	\$28,958	\$32,156	\$24,959
Santa Cruz	\$25,492	\$27,972	\$21,107

2000 U.S. Census. All workers ages 16 and older. All data are available online at: www.factfinder.census.gov/

Poverty

County	1990			2000			2006		
	Total Pop. ^{lxiii}	Total below poverty line ^{lxiv}	Females below poverty line ^{lxv}	Total Pop.	Total below poverty line	Females below	Total Pop.	Total below poverty line	Females below
Cochise	92,172	18,721 (20%)	10,665 (19%)	111,867	19,772 (18%)	11,003 (19%)	120,847	21,859 (18%)	11,738 (19%)
Pima	650,384	111,880 (17%)	60,936 (16%)	823,638	120,778 (15%)	66,291 (16%)	933,566	142,015 (15%)	78,971 (16%)
Santa Cruz	29,522	7,796 (26%)	4,288 (23%)	38,215	9,356 (24%)	5,310 (27%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Southern AZ	772,078	138,397 (18%)	75,889 (16%)	973,720	149,906 (15%)	82,604 (17%)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Data for 1990 and 2000 came from the U.S. Census for those respective years. The 2006 information came from the 2006 American Community Survey. All data takes earnings from the previous year. All data are available online at: www.factfinder.census.gov/

Poverty among Race Groups (Females)^{lxvi}

Note: The U.S. Census categorizes race and ethnicity separately. A person of Hispanic origin could be of any race.

Number of Females in Poverty, 2000 (% of females in race/ethnic group in poverty)

	White	Black	Am. Indian	Asian	Pacific Islander	Other	Two or more races	Hispanic
Cochise	7,699 (17%)	320 (16%)	145 (22%)	131 (9%)	41 (29%)	2,137 (31%)	530 (24%)	5,965 (33%)
Pima	39,805 (13%)	2,244 (21%)	5,056 (37%)	1,443 (16%)	91 (17%)	14,640 (26%)	3,012 (21%)	30,561 (24%)
Santa Cruz	4,059 (27%)	0	21 (24%)	10 (5%)	0	1,135 (27%)	85 (17%)	4,920 (30%)

2000 U.S. Census. All data are available online at: www.factfinder.census.gov/

^{lxii} Total population of all individuals 16 yrs or older with earnings.

^{lxiii} Total population of all individuals where the poverty status is known.

^{lxiv} All individuals living below the poverty line divided by all individuals where the poverty status is known.

^{lxv} All females living below the poverty line divided by all female individuals where the poverty status is known.

^{lxvi} All percentages are generated by dividing the total female population for a respective race/ethnic category by the total female population in the respective county.



Health and Well-Being

Births by Mother's Age

	Total	Mother's age group									Unkn own
		<15	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	
Cochise	1,808	0	81(5%)	128(7%)	618(34%)	518(29%)	324(18%)	117(7%)	20(1%)	2*	0
Pima	13,929	24 (.2%)	577 (4%)	1,167 (8%)	3,994 (29%)	3,877 (28%)	2,674 (19%)	1,326 (10%)	269 (2%)	20 (0%)	1 (*)
Santa Cruz	753	3(*)	48(6%)	70(9%)	189(25%)	193(26%)	163(22%)	73(10%)	13(2%)	1(*)	0

Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 2006. * Numbers under 10 are too small to calculate a percentage.

Births by Mother's Race/Ethnicity

	Total	White non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Other or Unknown
Cochise	1,808	841(47%)	774(43%)	94(5%)	11(1%)	59(3%)	29(2%)
Pima	13,929	5,351(38%)	6,880(49%)	524(4%)	600(4%)	436(3%)	138(1%)
Santa Cruz	753	54(7%)	697(93%)	0	1(*)	1(*)	0

Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 2006. * Numbers under 10 are too small to calculate a percentage.

Prenatal Care

	Total		Number of Prenatal Visits, 2006											
			No visits		1-4 visits		5-8 visits		9-12 visits		13+ visits		Unknown	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Cochise	1,808	100	48	3	42	2	135	78	451	25	1,130	6	2	*
Pima	13,929	100	424	3	525	4	2,516	18	6,837	49	3,622	26	5	*
Santa Cruz	753	100	17	2	88	12	262	35	282	38	104	14	0	

Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 2006. * Numbers under 10 are too small to calculate a percentage.

Mortality Rates for 10 Most Frequent Causes of Death, 2006, Female

Arizona	# of Deaths	Rate per 100K women	Cochise	# of Deaths	Rate per 100K women	Pima	# of Deaths	Rate per 100K women	Santa Cruz	# of Deaths	Rate per 100K women
Cardiovascular	6,624	212.6	Cardiovascular	193	285.8	Cardiovascular	1,177	235	Cardiovascular	33	138.8
Cancers	4,535	145.5	Cancers	118	174.8	Cancers	725	144.7	Cancers	26	109.3
Alzheimers	1,416	45.4	Cerebrovascular Disease	41	60.7	Lower Respiratory	265	52.9	Nonspecified (nonvehicular) accidents	6	25.2
Lower Respiratory	1,288	41.3	Lower Respiratory	29	42.9	Alzheimers	151	30.1	Cerebrovascular	5	21.0
Influenza Pneumonia	568	18.2	Diabetes	13	19.3	Influenza Pneumonia	114	22.8	Alzheimers	5	21.0
Diabetes	556	17.8	Nephritis/Renal	13	19.3	Diabetes	99	19.8	*All other causes 3 cases or less		
Motor Vehicle Accidents	389	12.5	Motor Vehicle Accidents	12	17.8	Falls	70	14.0			
Falls	364	11.7	Influenza Pneumonia	11	16.3	Motor Vehicle Accidents	59	11.8			
Septicemia	280	9.0	Suicide	9	13.3	Liver Disease	52	10.4			
Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	280	9.0	Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	7	10.4	Accidental Poisoning	47	9.4			
All Causes	21,757	698.3	All Causes	534	790.8	All Causes	3,783	755.2	All Causes	110	462.6

Note: *Rate based on per 100,000 in population (women). For sample sizes under 10, rate calculation is not a statistically reliable measure (Santa Cruz)

Source: AZ Dept of Health, Health Statistics and Vital Statistics Section, 2006

Lack of Health Insurance 2000 (not gender specific)

	2000		
County	Uninsured	Percent Uninsured	90% Confidence Interval (+/-)
Cochise	23,944	21%	2,269 (2%)
Pima	149,746	18%	16,373 (1.9%)
Santa Cruz	11,544	30%	847 (2.2%)

US Census, Model-based Small Area Health Insurance Estimates for Counties and States



Violence

Youth in Foster Care, 2008

	Cochise	Pima	Santa Cruz	Southern AZ
Total	200	2450	21	2,671
Male	114	1,262	11	1,387
Female	86	1,186	10	1,282

Arizona Foster Care Review Board. Youth ages 18 and under. Data as of 7/1/2008

Crime in Southern Arizona, 2007

	Santa Cruz			Pima			Cochise			Southern AZ		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Female	Male
Major Crime*	247	186	61	9,236	6,434	2,802	1,185	834	351	10,668	3,214	7,454
Juvenile	80	58	22	2,262	1,400	862	308	212	96	2,650	980	1,670
Adults	167	128	39	6,974	5,034	1,940	877	622	255	8,018	2,234	5,784
Minor Crime**	1,942	1,540	402	60,177	43,748	16,429	5,628	4,181	1,447	67,747	18,278	49,469
Juvenile	332	207	125	10,960	7,079	3,881	1,444	1036	408	12,736	4,414	8,322
Adults	1,610	1,333	277	49,217	36,669	12,548	4184	3145	1039	55,011	13,864	41,147

Arizona Department of Public Safety, 2007.

* Major crimes includes Murder/non-neg manslaughter, Forcible rape, Robbery, Aggravated assault, Burglary, Larceny-theft, Motor vehicle theft, Arson

** Minor Crime includes Manslaughter by negligence, other assaults, Forgery and counterfeiting, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property, vandalism, weapons--carrying, possessing, prostitution and vice, Sex offenses, Drugs sale, Drug possession, bookmaking, offense against the family, DUI, Liquor laws, Drunkenness, Disorderly conduct, vagrancy, all other and (non traffic)



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